

ABBEYS AND CASTLES
SECOND SERIES



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KENILWORTH CASTLE, *from the Brook.*

Photo. S. THOMPSON.

RUINED ABBEYS AND CASTLES

OF

Great Britain and Ireland.

BY

WILLIAM HOWITT.

Second Series.

The Photographic Illustrations by

THOMPSON, SEDGFIELD, OGLE, AND HEMPHILL.



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Kenilworth Castle.

The ruined castle beckons me,
The abbey hoar, the forest dell ;
By ancient halls I wander free,
And by the hermit's shattered cell.



THE lordly days of the old barons and the glories of feudalism have found hosts of celebrators in poetry, romance, and novel literature ; but in none of these things has any pen conferred equal interest with that of Sir Walter Scott. Where he has laid the scene of one of his stories, history falls into the background, and the genius of other writers seems to yield only a pale moonlight. Kenilworth was a great and magnificent castle, inhabited by princes royal, and the powerful favourites of princes : sieges stout from time to time girt its walls, and gorgeous pageants enlivened its halls and courts and gardens ; but had not Sir Walter Scott made it the theme of one of his most thrilling romances, its ivied ruins would now have stood little regarded, though Queen Elizabeth feasted there, though the Earl of Leicester gave the

most elaborate entertainments, and Laneham described them at minutest length. It is not the glory of Elizabeth, or the greatness of Leicester, which flings a halo of beauty on the crumbling battlements of Kenilworth; but the spirit of a sweeter apparition—of one who never in reality seems to have been there at all—Amy Robsart. They who pass the dark walls of Cumnor, may shudder at the nocturnal tragedy which occurred there; but the feeling is not more real or vivid than that which haunts us at the sight of Kenilworth, innocent as it is of that horror.

Kenilworth Castle claims a high antiquity. There was a castle here, indeed, according to Dugdale, in the Saxon times, which stood on a hill called Hom, or Holme, Hill, which was battered down in the war betwixt King Edmund and Canute the Dane. This castle was situated on the bank of the Avon, in the woods opposite to Stoneleigh Park. There does not appear to have been any rebuilding of a castle on the estate so long as it remained in the hands of the crown. At the time of the Norman survey, Kenilworth was found in possession of two vassals of the king, one of whom held what was called Optone, or the higher portion, and the other the lower part. In Henry I.'s reign he granted the manor to Geoffrey de Clinton, who built a castle on the present site, as well as a monastery near it. Henry III. granted the privileges of a market on Tuesday each week, and an annual fair of three days, to the village which grew up under its protection; but these privileges died out from apparent absence of any necessity for them, till the Earl of Leicester obtained a fresh grant of them from Queen Elizabeth. Geoffrey de Clinton, who rose from a humble origin to become Lord Chief Justice under Henry I., however, did not hand down this fair possession to his family. In the reign of

Henry II. we again find it in the hands of the crown, and garrisoned by the monarch in the rebellion against him of his own son Henry, who died before him. In the reigns of John and Henry III. the castle was enlarged throughout, to meet the demands of those turbulent times. In the reign of the latter monarch, he granted it to Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester, and to Eleanor his wife ; but only for their respective lives.

The story of Simon de Montfort is one of the most remarkable of those days. This baron, who played so conspicuous a part in the reign of Henry III., was the son of that Count de Montfort who had gained an unenviable celebrity in the persecutions of the Albigenes, in the South of France. He became Earl of Leicester in right of his mother Amicia, and, coming to England, was received in high favour by the king, and married Eleanor, the Countess Dowager of Pembroke, King Henry's sister. Much opposition was made to this great match, especially by Richard, Earl of Cornwall, and titular king of the Romans, Henry III.'s brother, and most powerful support. Simon de Montfort, however, having secured the bride, soon set himself to win the affections of the English people, and, though a foreigner, to oppose the titles of foreigners who surrounded the throne, and preyed on the country. He became the leader of the barons against the encroachments of royal power, and thus excited an enmity in the king against him, as great as had been his regard for him. He was banished the court ; yet in a while, probably to remove him from the opposition in England, he was made governor of Guienne. Here the same spirit of reform, or rather of repression of the assumptions and rapacity of the nobles, aroused an outcry against him ; he was recalled, and received so insolently by Henry, that the proud de Montfort told the monarch that

but for his royal rank he would have made him repent of the wrong on the spot. Leicester again retired to France, but was after a time reconciled to the monarch, returned to England, and resumed the work of popular, or rather baronial, opposition. He was elected leader of the barons, who received the king in May, 1258, in Westminster Hall, armed, and demanding sweeping reforms in the government. From this time till 1267, or nine years, the contest went on in Parliament, and by arms, betwixt the barons with Leicester at their head, and the royal party, chiefly conducted by Prince Edward, afterwards the renowned Edward I. For a time Montfort was in possession of both the king and the prince; but the latter escaping, came against him, and defeated him in a great battle at Evesham, in August, 1265, and released his father, the old king. Simon de Montfort was not only killed in this battle, but barbarously mutilated. His son, also Simon de Montfort, however, continued the contest for about two years longer, and had strong forces in the isles of Ely and Axholm, the Cinque Ports, at Kenilworth, and in the forests of Hampshire. Finding it impossible to put down the baronial power, the king consented to compromise, and at Kenilworth the conflicting parties came to an agreement, which was called the Dictum de Kenilworth. The Earl of Gloucester, however, did not come in to the terms of the Dictum. He and others deemed the treatment awarded to the young de Montfort and his family too severe, and the guarantees of the Dictum too precarious. Supported by the Londoners, they stood out till November of 1267,—two years and three months after the battle of Evesham. The king then consented to a further acceptance of the concessions which had been demanded by the great Simon de Montfort, called by the people “Simon the Righteous;” and thus closed this long popular strife, excited by

the possessor of Kenilworth. But here did not entirely end the tragic consequences.

When the pacification of the country was effected, Prince Edward, and Henry his cousin, son of the King of the Romans, set out for a crusade in the Holy Land. Prince Henry being in 1270 sent home on a secret mission by Prince Edward, took his way through Italy; and one morning being at prayers in a church at Viterbo, heard a well-known voice exclaim:—"Thou traitor, Henry,—thou shalt not escape!" Turning round, he saw, to his consternation, Simon and Guy de Montfort, who, with their mother, the Countess of Leicester, King Henry's own sister, had been excepted from the conditions of the Dictum de Kenilworth; their estates confiscated, and themselves banished the realm.

These embittered enemies had become aware of his presence in Viterbo, and now appeared in complete armour and with drawn swords making towards him. He rushed forward and clung to the holy altar, before which he was kneeling; but in vain did the priests endeavour to defend him. Two of them were themselves killed by the enraged Anglo-Normans, and Prince Henry was assassinated, and his body horribly mutilated, in revenge for the treatment of their father at Evesham. Guy de Montfort had married the daughter of Count Aldobrandini, and by his aid the murderers were enabled to make their escape. The shock of this news hastened the death of the King of the Romans, Prince Henry's father, and, as is supposed, that also of his uncle, Henry III., who died in November, 1272.

On the surrender of the castle of Kenilworth, Henry III. bestowed it on Edmund, his younger son, whom he created Earl of Leicester and Lancaster. During the more firm sway of Edward I., Kenilworth became as gay with festivity as it

had hitherto been stern with war. In the seventh year of that reign a grand tournament was held at the castle. Roger Mortimer, Earl of March, was the great promoter of this festival, and was the principal challenger of the tilt-yard. There were a hundred knights and a hundred ladies assembled, and it was regarded as a sign of the splendour of the occasion that the ladies were attired in *filken* mantles. The dances were not less gallantly attended than the lists; and, to avoid all painful distinctions in regard to precedence, the whole party banqueted at a *round table*. These exercises began on the eve of St. Matthew, and continued till the day after the feast of St. Michael.

On the attainder of Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, son of Earl Edmund, the castle again reverted to the crown, and was designed by Edward II. as a place of retirement, when he saw dangers arising on all sides; but it became so to him in a very different sense to that which he proposed.

Edward's weakness and favouritism had alienated his subjects, and had lost him that command in Scotland which his warlike father had acquired at the cost of so many lives, and so much treasure. He had in that country men as brave as he was pusillanimous to contend with. Robert Bruce and Douglas defeated him at Bannockburn, and afterwards drove him from Scotland. At home, his insane attachment to the Gascon favourite, Piers Gaveston, had disgusted the whole country, and had caused the death of the vain foreigner at Blacklow Hill, only three miles from Kenilworth, under the hands of the Earl of Warwick, the Black Dog of Arden, and other barons. Again the Despensers, father and son, engrossed his favour, and sunk him for ever in the regard of his subjects, by their unchecked assumptions and rapacity. The father was seized and hanged at Bristol; the son, after

fleeing to sea with the infatuated king, and wandering with him for weeks in disguise in the woods of South Wales, near Neath, was seized and hanged at Hereford, with some other of the wretched monarch's followers; the Earl of Arundel being beheaded on the same occasion.

Thus reduced to the lowest extremity of disgrace and misery, deserted by his wife, and in opposition to his son, the fugitive and now captive king was in the hands of Henry, Earl of Lancaster, the brother of Thomas, the earl who had been taken in insurrection at Boroughbridge, in Yorkshire, and beheaded at Pontefract by Edward's order. A more humiliating condition cannot be conceived than that of Edward here. In the castle which he had seized as the forfeited property of the attainted earl, he was now held close prisoner by that earl's brother and his own cousin; his favourites successively destroyed; his party annihilated; his wife and heir—a boy of only fourteen—alienated from him, and not a subject in the realm but anxious to be well rid of him.

After being kept at Kenilworth two months, Parliament met, declared that he had ceased to reign, and proclaimed his son, the Prince of Wales, amid universal acclamation. A bill was introduced by Stratford, Bishop of Hereford, charging Edward with incapacity, cruelty, oppression, and a number of other crimes, and ordering his deposition. This was passed without opposition; and on the 20th of January, 1327, a deputation, consisting of bishops, earls, barons, two knights from each shire, and two representatives of each borough, waited on him here, and informed him of what had taken place, and that he was no longer king. The fallen monarch received this solemn deputation in the great hall of the castle, wrapt only in a black gown, and formally renounced all right to the crown, except in favour of his son, which he thanked

them for recognising. It is said that, glancing round on the individuals of the deputation, his eye no sooner fell on one than he dropped senseless to the ground. This was Adam Orleton, Bishop of Hereford, whom he had deprived of his see, and who had thence proved one of his most powerful enemies. Orleton had headed the party of the guilty Isabella, his queen, against him, and had done more to the ruin of his character with the people, by spreading the stories of his disgraceful conduct with his favourites, than any man living. Then Sir William Trussel, the speaker of the whole Parliament, pronounced the sentence of that august body; Sir Thomas Blount, the steward of the royal household, broke his white staff of office, as at the death of a king, and pronounced all persons engaged in Edward's service discharged and freed by that act. The deputation then departed, leaving the son of the powerful monarch Edward I., and the father of the equally powerful Edward III., the most helpless, isolated, and abject individual in the realms over which he had so lately ruled.

On the 24th of the same month proclamation was made in London of his deposition, and on the 29th the young king was crowned. He was by Parliament placed under the regency of his mother, the licentious Isabella, and she was herself under the absolute influence of Roger Mortimer, "the gentle Mortimer;" so that Edward in his solitary prison had the mortification of hearing that his wife, who had despised and helped to put him down, and her paramour, were actually reigning in his stead. But they did not forget him, though he now appeared so impotent: they were afraid that there might be some revulsion in his favour, especially as the clergy had the boldness to denounce from the pulpit the scandalous connection of Isabella and Mortimer. They complained that the Earl of

Lancaster favoured the deposed king too much, though Lancaster had the memory of the death of his brother to prevent too much lenity. But Lancaster was a humane and honourable man; Edward was, therefore, taken out of his hands, and put into those of Sir John Maltravers, a man of a fierce and



KENILWORTH CASTLE: BANQUETING HALL.

savage temperament, smarting under grievous wrongs from the king and his favourites. This brutal executioner removed the unhappy monarch from Kenilworth, carried him from castle to castle, heaped the most cruel indignities on him, and

completed the horrible tragedy at Berkeley Castle in a manner which yet shrieks through history.

Edward III. restored the castle and estate of Kenilworth to Henry, Earl of Lancaster, for his services in placing him on the throne, and in the removal of the late king. By his marriage with Blanche, the grand-daughter of this earl, John of Gaunt, the son of Edward III., became possessed of Kenilworth, with the title of Duke of Lancaster. To him the castle owed both extension and improvement. The great Banqueting Hall is said to have been of his erection, with most of those portions of the castle called the Lancaster Buildings, forming the western side of the quadrangle. Again the castle and estate returned to the crown, through Henry IV. the son of John of Gaunt, deposing Richard II., and seizing the throne. It remained the royal property till the reign of Queen Elizabeth, who conferred it with many other estates on her favourite, Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester. Leicester, with the ambition and display natural to him, determined to make Kenilworth one of the most princely mansions in the kingdom. He expended £60,000—equal to half a million of our present money—in restoring, enlarging, and embellishing it. He built the great entrance gateway and tower on the north side, equal itself to many baronial castles in strength and extent. He built also the part of the east front called Leicester Buildings. He is said to have refitted the great banqueting hall of John of Gaunt, and the range of buildings on the south side, between the buildings named after him and the Lancaster Buildings. He also rebuilt Mortimer's Tower and the Gallery Tower at the opposite ends of the Tilt-yard. Having completed these magnificent works, he invited his royal mistress, to whom he was indebted for this superb house and estate, to witness his lordly state there. This took place in 1566; and Elizabeth

was so much pleased with the entertainment that she repeated the visit in 1568, and a third time in 1575. It is the last of these visits that has been celebrated by Sir Walter Scott in his romance of Kenilworth, and has thus conferred a greater interest upon it than it could ever have derived from the whole series of its historical events. There are some particulars of the description of the general appearance and condition of Kenilworth at this epoch, by Scott, that we may quote as making much clearer that which has to follow :—

“The outer wall of this splendid and gigantic structure enclosed seven acres, a part of which was occupied by extensive stables, and by a pleasure garden, with its trim arbours and parterres, and the rest formed the large base-court, or outer yard, of the noble castle. The lordly structure itself, which rose near the centre of this spacious enclosure, was composed of a huge pile of magnificent castellated buildings, apparently of different ages, surrounding an inner court, and bearing in the names attached to each portion of the magnificent mass, and in the armorial bearings which were there blazoned, the emblems of mighty chiefs who had long passed away, and whose history, could ambition have lent ear to it, might have read a lesson to the haughty favourite who had now acquired and was augmenting the fair domain. . . . The external wall of this royal castle was, on the south and west sides, adorned and defended by a lake, partly artificial, across which Leicester had constructed a stately bridge, that Elizabeth might enter the castle by a path hitherto untrodden, instead of the usual entrance to the northward, over which he had erected a gate-house, or barbican, which still exists, and is equal in extent, and superior in architecture, to the baronial castle of many a northern chief. Beyond the lake lay an extensive chase, full of red deer, fallow deer, roes, and every species of game; and abounding with

lofty trees, from amongst which the extended front and massive towers of the castle were seen to rise in majesty and beauty."

To give a more distinct idea of this superb place, the visitor has only to suppose himself entering by the great gateway on the north, when, advancing along the great court southward, he would find himself in front of the eastern façade. The great massive tower at his right hand is Cæsar's Tower, supposed to be so called from a resemblance to the Tower of London, but evidently Norman, and no doubt built by Geoffrey de Clinton. At his left hand, and forming the south-eastern angle, stands Leicester's more modern and ornate Tower, with its large Elizabethan windows; and between them runs a lower range, called King Henry VIII.'s Lodgings and Sir Robert Dudley's Lobby. Betwixt Dudley's Lobby, King Henry's Lodgings, and Cæsar's Tower, is the arched main entrance to the interior court of the castle. At the opposite side of the quadrangle rises Lancaster's great banqueting hall, facing westward over the lake; and at its north-west angle rises Mervyn's or the Strong Tower, where Scott imagines Amy Robsart to have taken up her quarters, on her recent visit to the castle, during the great festival. The buildings betwixt Lancaster's Buildings and Leicester's, face the lake southward.

The spectator, whilst making these observations, would have behind him the two towers, called Lun's Tower and the Water Tower, built in the battlemented court wall, and with the moat outside. To his left hand he would have the Gallery Tower and Mortimer's Tower, with the Tilt-yard between them, and the lake coming up to them. Beyond them and the lake would spread the chase; and on the right hand of the castle he would see the garden extending, with its statues and broad walks, to the Pleasaunce and the Swan Tower, both washed by the lake on the west. Such was the aspect of the place at the moment

of the arrival of Queen Elizabeth. Of that arrival and visit we have the quaint, conceited, but graphic description of Master Robert Laneham, "Clerk of the Council-Chamber door, and also Keeper of the same." Scott calls Laneham "as great a coxcomb as ever blotted paper;" and no doubt he deserves the epithet: nevertheless, he has left us a very amusing account of this remarkable visit, in very antiquated language. He styles it "A Letter, whearin, part of the Entertainment, untoo the Queenz Maiefty, at Killingworth Castle, in Warwick Sheer, in this Soomers Progrefs, 1575, iz signified: from a freend Officer attendant in the Coourt, unto hiz freend, a Citizen and Merchaunt of London."

Before introducing some touches from Laneham's account, it is worth while taking a note or two of himself. Robert Laneham was a Nottinghamshire man, who had travelled as a merchant-adventurer in fundry countries, and had picked up enough knowledge of French, Dutch, and Spanish, to enable him to converse with persons from those countries on ordinary topics. Besides this, he could play on the guitar, citern and virginals; had been a gallant amongst the ladies, and a *bon vivant* amongst the men. He was fond of sack and sugar, which he says made him "flush so mooch a dayz;" that is, have a very florid face. He was just the man to suit the Earl of Leicester, and by him was introduced to this post at court, and, as Laneham boasts, did him many favours besides; gave him apparel from his own back, got him allowance on the stable, and helped him in his licence of beans, one of those endless monopolies which oppressed the country under Elizabeth. In consequence, says Laneham, "I now go in my silks, that else might ruffle in my cut-canvas; ride on horseback, that else might manage on foot; am known to their honours, and taken forth with the best, that else might be bid to stand back." How

he exercised his office, he thus tells us :—" When the Council sit I am at hand. If any make a babbling,—‘ Peace !’ I say. If I take listener or a prier in at the chincks or lock-hole, I am bye and bye at the bones of him. If a friend come, I make him sit down by me on a form or chest—let the rest walk a God’s name !” He adds, “ And here do my languages now and then stand me in good stead : my French, my Spanish, my Dutch, and my Latin. Sometimes amongst the ambassadors’ men, if their master be within council ; sometimes with the ambassador himself, if he desire me to call for his servant, or ask me what it is o’clock ; and I warrant you I answer him so boldly, that they wonder to see such a fellow there.”

We may from these passages see exactly Laneham’s vanity and self-confidence. He was by no means backward at putting himself amongst his superiors ; and no doubt, his language, his music, and his airs of foreign travel, made him amusing to them. Accordingly, he tells us that during the queen’s seventeen days’ stay at Kenilworth, he spent many afternoons and evenings with Sir George Howard, and sometimes at Lady Sidney’s chambers, “ but always amongst the gentlewomen, by my good-will.”

It was the rule at that day, as we find from a very rare book of 1671, that courtiers waiting in the ante-chamber or presence-chamber were not to walk up and down, not to whistle or sing for divertisement : if any one did so, it was the usher’s duty to rebuke him. What was more curious, “ it was uncivil to knock hard, or give more than one knock.” “ To knock is no less than brutish ; the way is to scratch with the nails.” “ If nobody was in the ante-chamber to introduce you, you must try gently if the door be locked or bolted inside. If it were, you must not knock or fiddle about the lock like an impatient person, as if he would pick it ; but you must

patiently wait till it is opened, or scratch softly to make them hear ; but if nobody comes, you must retire to some distance, lest you should be suspected of eaves-dropping, which would be a great offence to all persons of quality." It was considered but civil for a person thus waiting to walk with his hat off in halls and ante-chambers. These were the rules that Laneham had to enforce.

Laneham opens his narrative of the queen's visit with her arrival at Long Ichington, "a town and lordship of my lord's" within seven miles of Kenilworth, where Leicester gave "her majesty a great cheer, dinner, and pleasaunt pastime in hunting by the way after, that it was eight in the evening ear her highness came too Killingworth." Laneham always calls it Killingworth ; though he says it was originally Kenelworth, so named from Kenelm, or Kenulph, the first builder of the castle. Killingworth was the name commonly used at the time.

The whole of the ceremonies of the queen's reception and entertainment during her stay were laid down in a masque composed by George Gascoigne, the poet, styled "The Princely Pleasures at the Courte at Kenelworth ; that is to saye, the copies of all such Verses, Proses, or poetical inventions, and other Deuices of Pleasure, as were there deuised by fundry gentlemen before the Queen's Majestie, in the year 1575." This, with all its long and adulatory addresses in verse and prose, which met Elizabeth at every turn from the mouths of all sorts of heathen deities, may be found, as well as Laneham's narrative, in the first volume of Nicol's "Progresses of Queen Elizabeth." Sir Walter Scott has so fully described them in his romance, that we may be excused taking more than a passing notice of them.

As the queen approached the first gate, a person clad to represent one of the Sibyls accosted her with a poem ; at the

next gate of the bridge or tilt-yard, a gigantic porter with huge club and keys made another address, and the trumpeters on the gate sounded their trumpets in welcome. Then a person attired as the famous Lady of the Lake of King Arthur's story, came on a floating island to do homage at the second gate. On the different pairs of posts of the continuation of the bridge over a dry valley from the tilt-yard to the castle-gate between which the queen passed, were placed cages with birds, green ears of corn as the gifts of Ceres, different kinds of fruits, oranges, lemons, pomegranates, &c.; grapes, wine, in livery pots of silver; another pair of posts had a great display of fish; another a collection of arms and armour; another of musical instruments. Over the entrance gate itself were suspended her majesty's arms, and a Latin poem in her honour; every letter mentioning her majesty being in gold. These verses were recited by a poet crowned with bay, and in a long cerulean garment. In the castle the queen was received with feasting, dancing, and a visit from Jupiter Tonans himself, amidst burning darts, lightnings, and thunders. During the seventeen days that the entertainment lasted, Elizabeth could not turn any way, but pagan gods and goddesses, savage men, fylvans, and nymphs, beset her path. Sometimes she hunted in the park, whence invisible beings spoke out of trees and thickets; sometimes she enjoyed one of her most favourite delights, a bear-baiting; and Laneham luxuriates in the description of this savage sport, where thirteen bears at once were attacked by the dogs; and he details with the greatest gusto how the ban-dogs tore the bears by the throat, and clawed them by the scalp, "with roling, tossing, tumbling; how the bear would work to wynd himself from them; and when he was lose, to shake his ears twyfe or thryfe with the blood and flaver about fízaling, was a matter of good relief."

One day they had the famous Coventry Hocketide play under the management of a Captain Cox, "an old man I promiz yoo," so famous for this representation that Ben Jonson wrote a "Masque of Owls at Kenilworth" to introduce him on his hobby-horse. At other times they had all sorts of feats of agility displayed by an Italian, and at night again fireworks. They had all kinds of country sports,—the quintain, running, wrestling, even a country wedding celebrated. Amongst other characters, a minstrel appeared in full costume, and recited passages from the Acts of King Arthur; and Laneham runs into a great eulogy on bone spoons as they appeared standing upright in a bowl of furmenty in the minstrel's cresset; "how, beeing nether so churlish in weight az is metal, nor so forward and brittle to manure (manufacture) az stone; nor yet so foily in use nor roough to the lips az wood is; but lyght, plyaunt, und smooth; thot with a little licking, wool allweiz be kept as clean as a dy."

The manners of the time were not very refined. On the next page he tells us that the minstrel, preparing himself to recite, "cleered his vois with a hem and a reach, and spat oout withal; wyped his lips with the hollo of his hand (for fying his napkin), tempered a string or too with his wreast, and after a little warbling on his harp for a prelude, began."

The flattery showered on the queen was without any stint; often as coarse as the manners, and sometimes absolutely blasphemous. The scene of the Echo, afterwards so happily burlesqued by Butler in his *Hudibras*, is enacted between a savage man all in ivy, and the said Echo, in which the adulation is stupendous, and yet not a whit beyond the capacious swallow of this famous queen. But the climax of flattery was only reached by Gascoigne himself, clad as Sylvanus, who actually declared that "he had rather be her Majestie's footman on

earth, than God on horseback in heaven!'" (Nicols' "Progresses of Queen Elizabeth," vol 1., p. 517.) But even this most impious speech called forth no rebuke from Elizabeth, who was made so drunk with flattery that she seemed to know no distinction betwixt due respect and the vilest sycophancy. But the truth is, when we dismiss romance and the mythic glories which so long surrounded this age and monarch, and look simply at the facts which the official publication of the official documents of the court of this princess present, we are shocked to find what a most demoralized and vicious reign was that of the so-called virgin queen.

This gay and gallant Earl of Leicester, on whom she heaped such favours, and on whom she doted so openly as to occasion the grossest scandals—who and what was he? He was the grandson of that same Dudley who with Empson was the base agent of Henry VII. for fleecing and oppressing his subjects, and whose crimes and extortions were so monstrous that they brought him to the block. But his diabolically-won wealth remained, and raised his grandson to a position highest in the court of his sovereign, but through crimes of an equally dark dye. The only merits of this man were his handsome person and courtly manners. Hume the historian says, "This earl was a great hypocrite, a pretender to the strictest religion, an encourager of the Puritans, and a founder of hospitals." He adds, "He was proud, insolent, interested, ambitious; without honour, without generosity, without humanity. He had discovered no conduct in any of his military enterprises, yet the queen entrusted him with the command of her armies during the danger of the Spanish invasion; a partiality which might have proved fatal to her had the Duke of Parma been able to land his troops in England." And this she did after he had wofully disgraced himself

twice in the Netherlands, and greatly disgusted the Dutch Government. "No wonder," says Hume, "that a conduct so unlike the usual jealousy of Elizabeth, gave reason to suspect that the partiality was founded on some other passion than friendship."

In one thing, however, Leicester was an adept, and that was in poisoning and assassination. His first wife, Amy Robsart, was destroyed by his orders in the manner described in Scott's novel, because he had flattered himself that the queen was ready to marry him, but at an earlier period than Scott assumes. Sir Nicholas Throgmorton being ambassador at Paris heard such accounts of this murder, and of the probability of the queen marrying Leicester, that he not only wrote to Mr. Secretary Cecil, but sent a messenger express to give Elizabeth the whole particulars. She only stormed at Sir Nicholas, saying she knew all about it, but that Leicester was at the time at court, and so it could not be his doing! However, neither she nor Leicester ever forgave Throgmorton, and Leicester inviting him to make him a visit, he died suddenly, "not without suspicion of poison," says Fuller, "the more that his death took place in the house of no mean artist in that faculty." After this he married Lady Sheffield, endeavoured to get rid of her too by poison, and failing, denied the marriage, and compelled her to marry another man. His next victim was the Earl of Essex; for Leicester taking a fancy to his wife, got rid, as thus stated, of his own wife. Essex also died suddenly, and two days afterwards Leicester married the Countess. The fact of this marriage was soon made known to Elizabeth by the Duke of Anjou, who was seeking her hand, and she stormed and put him in prison, but soon forgave him again. Becoming jealous of the Countess and Sir Christopher Blount, he endeavoured to assassinate Blount. When Leicester was tired of the Countess

of Essex he intended to poison her too, and for this purpose he gave her a bottle of liquor, as Ben Jonson assured "Drummond of Hawthornden," which he willed her to use in any faintness; which she, after his return from court, not knowing it was poison, gave him, and so he died." This took place at Cornbury, in Oxfordshire, in September, 1588. Leicester, too, recommended Elizabeth to despatch the Queen of Scots quietly by poison, a council which she was anxious to adopt, but could not get Sir Amias Paulett, Mary's keeper, to administer it, nor let it be administered.

Leicester was as tyrannical and unprincipled as he was deadly in his purposes. The "Secret Memoirs of the Earl of Leicester," published in his lifetime, state that the magnificent gardens and parks at Kenilworth were not completed without intolerable oppressions. The Earl pretended that he had found an old record in a hole of the castle wall, which established his right over the estates of many of his neighbours; "for he had singular good luck always in finding out records for his purpose, by virtue whereof he hath taken the lands, woods, pastures, and commons round about, to make himself parks, chases, and other commodities, to the subversion of many a good family which was maintained there before this devourer set foot in that country." The same volume mentions his "intolerable tyranny upon the lands of one Lane." But the case of a gentleman of an ancient family of the name of Arden was still more atrocious. This gentleman refused to sell Leicester his estate. Leicester used such pressure upon him, as compelled Arden to assert his rights and independence as an Englishman. He set Leicester at defiance, and relied upon the laws for protection; but he soon found how little law could avail him against a royal favourite at that period. Arden had married his daughter to a Catholic gentleman named Somerville, who

was insane, and this Somerville in one of his paroxysms had drawn his sword, and sworn that he would kill all the Protestants that he could meet with. This was enough for Leicester. He had Somerville, Arden, and Hall, a Catholic priest, arrested, and torture applied. Nothing could be extracted from Arden ; but Hall the priest, in his agony, said he had once heard Arden say he wished Elizabeth was in heaven. Enough ; within two hours after this, Somerville was found strangled in his cell, and Arden was executed as a traitor the very next day. Such was the consequence of any unhappy Naboth refusing his vineyard to this Elizabethan Ahab !

If modern discoveries in the State Paper Office had not rent away the old romantic notions of the virgin queen and her court, we might have wondered at the attachment of Elizabeth to such a thorough villain as Leicester. But the great Queen was a match even for Leicester in crime. She endeavoured to poison the Queen of Scots ; and called Sir Amias Paulet and Mr. Secretary Davison “ nice and dainty fellows,” because they refused to commit murder by poison. She was accused of having the Earl of Arundel despatched by poison in prison, where he had been confined many years for having turned Catholic ; and she is said to have done this because, having executed his father, she shrank from executing the son also without some clearly defined cause.

The character of Elizabeth has, till of late years, been taken on trust from the extravagant eulogies of the corrupt writers of her time. She has had a traditionary reputation as “ the glorious Queen Bess,” “ the good Queen Bess ;” but the late researches into the records of her reign in the State Paper Office have cast a dark shadow over that once brilliant fable. And yet, if people had taken the trouble to have consulted many trustworthy writers of her time, they must have seen a

fearful fight. Of the mere foibles of her character little need be said: her vanity; her irresolution; her thousand dresses, which were discovered at her decease in her wardrobe; her being painted up in her old age, face, neck and arms; her numerous heads of false hair; or even her curfing, swearing, and beatings with her own lusty fists her maids of honour, and her very ministers, may be passed over. But the licentiousness in which she is known to have lived whilst calling herself a maiden queen; the licentiousness which, in consequence of her example, pervaded her whole court; the corruption of her courts of justice; the flagrant mischief of the monopolies by which she allowed her favourites to fleece her people; and the pauperism and crime which abounded under her rule, are matters of far graver moment. Her indecorous conduct, not only towards Leicester, but towards Hatton and Raleigh, Oxford and Blount, and the Frenchmen Simier and Anjou, it is better to draw a veil over. The court imitated the manners of the queen. It was a place in which, according to Faunt, "all enormities reigned in the highest degree;" or according to Harrington, "there was no love but that of the lusty god of gallantry, Asmodeus." Faunt afterwards adds in another letter,—"The only discontent I have is to live where there is so little godliness and exercise of religion; so dissolute manners and corrupt conversation generally, which I find to be worse than when I knew the place first."

Under these historic lights the grand pageant of Kenilworth assumes a very different aspect to that which the romancist has given to it. The tragic death of Amy Robsart, by which Scott has conferred an interest in these gala scenes, no longer hides the other and many crimes which tainted the characters of the chief actors in it. In fact, the death of Amy Robsart has been somewhat violently imported into the narrative. She

never was at this festival, probably never at the castle; for her fearful fate occurred fifteen years before, namely, in 1560. What we really see, then, amid the pagan mummeries of Leicester's entertainment at Kenilworth, is a queen of forty-two, doting on the greatest criminal of the age, a practised poisoner, a ruthless oppressor, and the very splendours with which he entertained this royal mistress built on the ruin of his neighbours. Knowing this, the charm of romance fades before the stern realities of history, and we congratulate ourselves on the far nobler age in which we live—a time when virtue and purity possess the throne, and when the privileges of Englishmen, won by centuries of political energy, stand based on an independence that fears neither arbitrary monarch nor overgrown favourite. What a wonderful contrast does this era of art, science, and true liberty, present to the boasted days of Elizabeth, even with a Shakspeare, a Spenser, and a Sydney to honour them!

It was in returning from the grand entertainment at Kenilworth, and whilst she was at Woodstock, on her way to town, that the Queen was met by one of the most horrible pieces of news which ever flew across affrighted Europe—the Massacre of St. Bartholomew.

The Earl of Leicester left his property to his brother Ambrose, Earl of Warwick, for his life, and then to go to his own son, Robert Dudley, whom he in his will termed his *base* son. This was a son by Lady Sheffield, the widow of Lord Sheffield, whom Leicester had secretly married during his residence at court, at the very time that he and the queen were living more like married people than anything else. Yet as soon as he was tired of Lady Sheffield, she narrowly escaped death by poison, and, being menaced by Leicester, she consented to marry Sir Edward Stafford. He was most anxious to conceal this con-

nexion from the queen, and he succeeded. The unhappy Sir Robert, the son of this marriage, came into possession of Kenilworth soon after the decease of his father, by the death of his uncle, the Earl of Warwick, and he took measures to prove his legitimacy; but these proved his ruin. His father had married the Countess of Essex during the life of Sir Robert's mother; she had married another man; and these inquiries were likely to bring to light many things which touched the honour of very powerful families. In fact, it was asserted that there were only two ladies of Elizabeth's court whom this accomplished rascal had not corrupted. The proceedings were put to an abrupt termination by a special order of the House of Lords; the depositions were sealed up, and copies were not to be taken without the king's special license. Sir Robert, though he had proved his legitimacy, was politely permitted to travel: in plain language, he was banished, that his damaging knowledge might be kept at a distance from the public ear in England.

Sir Robert is declared to have been a man of rare attainments; but he must have inherited some of the libertine notions of his father. He had married Alicia, the daughter of Sir Thomas Leigh, of Stoneleigh Abbey, near Kenilworth, by whom he had a daughter Alicia. On quitting England, however, he did not take his wife with him; but Dugdale informs us that "Elizabeth, the daughter of Sir Charles Southwell, a very beautiful lady, went with him into Italy in the habit of a page, and there married him." The emperor Ferdinand II. created him a duke; and his real wife, who continued to reside in England, and died at the age of ninety, bore the title of Duchess Dudley. In the church at Stoneleigh is the marble altar-tomb of the duchess and her daughter, with their recumbent figures upon it, under a canopy with arms on

the facings. In the church of St. Mary, at Warwick, is the splendid tomb of the favourite of Queen Elizabeth; with a Latin epitaph "giving him," says the guide book, "credit for virtues which history refuses to associate with his name."

As Sir Robert Dudley continued to reside in Italy, where he enjoyed the friendship of the Duke of Tuscany, who conferred on him a pension, and as he never returned to England, James I. seized on Kenilworth and presented it to his son, Prince Henry. Henry avowed his readiness to pay Sir Robert £14,500 for his title to the castle and estate, notwithstanding the legal incapacity to which he had rendered himself subject: but owing to the death of the prince, only £3,000 was actually forwarded, and no part ever reached the fugitive Sir Robert. What a Russian sort of liberty does this fact reveal to us in the time of the Stuarts, when a nobleman could not travel without a royal licence, and if he did not return at the time fixed, his estate was seized by the crown! The castle, or rather the ruins of it, have since passed through various hands. It was the property of Charles I., at the outbreak of the civil war, when it fell into the power of Cromwell, who bestowed it on some of his officers, who demolished it for the sake of the materials, which they sold. They felled the timber and drained the moat and lake. On the restoration, Charles II. granted the castle and estate to Lawrence Hyde, afterwards Earl of Rochester, a son of Lord Chancellor Clarendon, who succeeded to the title of a man, if possible, more dissolute than Elizabeth's Leicester. After this it passed by marriage into the family of the Earl of Essex, and then to Thomas Villiers, afterwards Earl of Clarendon, whose descendants still possess it. The present earl is careful to preserve the still magnificent ruins, as much as ruins can be preserved, from decay. The

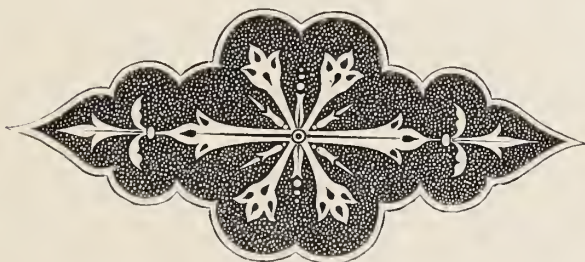
remains of Cæsar's Tower, of Mervyn's Tower, the Great Hall, and Leicester's Buildings, are striking fragments of the once magnificent whole. Leicester's Buildings, though last erected, exhibit the greatest decay, from being constructed of a more perishable stone.



KENILWORTH—MERVYN'S TOWER.

Some remains of the ancient abbey, said to have been built by Geoffrey de Clinton, the original builder of the castle, still remain near the castle,—part of them now forming a cow-house or barn, as well as the old gateway,—and the fine

Norman arch forming the entrance to the parish church is said to have been the chief entrance to the abbey, which was removed thither. Altogether, the pleasantness of the country in which the remains of Kenilworth stand, their own striking beauty, and the memory of the strange phases and contrasts of human life which have occurred here, make them as interesting a scene of ruined grandeur as any in the country.



The Castle of Caernarvon.



THE castles of Caernarvon, Beaumaris, and Conway, all on this north-west coast of Wales, are monuments of the subjection of the Principality by Edward I. Other castles on this coast he took and strengthened, for instance those of Flint and Rhuddlan, as yokes on the necks of the North Welsh ; these three he built expressly for that purpose, and, though all now more or less in ruin, they remain splendid evidences of his power, and of the architectural taste of the age. We have no finer specimens of castellated building than in the fortresses of Caernarvon and Conway, and what remains of the extensive castle of Beaumaris shows what it once was. Even the Welsh, who do not forget the object of their erection, yet regard them with pride.

Edward I., a warrior and statesman of the first rank, cherished, as the great purpose of his life, the reduction of the whole of the magnificent island of Great Britain into one compact and noble kingdom. This could not be done without invading the country and constitutions of Wales and Scotland, which had as much right to maintain their own independence, their own laws and customs, as England had. But warriors by nature and profession think little of such rights, and readily persuade themselves that the project which aggrandizes their own

country sanctifies the most flagrant usurpations, and renders innocent all the bloodshed and the crimes which irresistibly attend such enterprises. At the present day, the general sense of both England and Scotland, if not of Wales, would refuse to pronounce on Edward I. any other verdict than that of a great benefactor to his nation for what he did, and even for what he attempted yet failed in, towards the consolidation of Great Britain under one crown.

From the very first establishment of the Norman dynasty in England, it has cast greedy glances on the Welsh mountains; and though it had been more successful in its attempts on Ireland, from the days of the same Henry II. who conquered that country, encroachments had been steadily making on the Welsh borders. As that monarch once rode through a part of Wales attended by a splendid retinue of knights and barons, he looked with contempt on the Welsh gentlemen riding on their rough ponies, and on the poorer people clad in their goat or sheep-skin garments. But the Welsh looked on the English with an equal contempt, not unmingled with the jealous fear of the Norman thirst of conquest; and a mountaineer approached the proud English king, and said:—"Thou seeest this poor people, but, such as they are, thou shalt never subdue them—that is reserved alone for God in his wrath."

Still monarch after monarch displayed his hankering after a share of their little mountain land, and still more the bordering barons had made raids into the Welsh territory in order to plunder, and to extend their own already too extensive estates and jurisdiction. It was principally in South Wales that these inroads had been made. The conquerors had seized on the greater portion of Monmouthshire, by the time Edward ascended the throne, and they held in possession, though an uncertain and continually-disputed one, the greater

part of South Wales. To secure the hold they had gained, they raised strong castles; and to stimulate their aggressive propensities, the English monarchs granted them large estates out of the usurped districts. As they approached the feet of the mountains, they raised chains of fortifications at intervals sufficiently near to be able to afford each other aid in any attack from the natives. Thus by the time of Edward I., there was a regular chain of fortresses occupying the banks of the Monnow, the Wye, and the Severn; these were Scenfreth, Grosmont, Monmouth, Trelech, probably Tintern, Chepstow, and Caldecot. A second line stretched diagonally from Grosmont on the Monnow, to the banks of the Rumney; namely, Whitecastle, Tregaer, Usk, Langibby, Caerleon, and Newport. This diagonal line, with the strong castle of Abergavenny to the north of it, was intended to curb the mountaineers, who made perpetual incursions on the invaders. Thus the conflict went on till the time of Edward I.: the Welsh seizing every opportunity to surprise any of these strongholds, and to cut off the English passing from one to another. But the advantage was still on the side of the English, and the circle of mountain independence continually grew narrower and narrower. Since the conquest of Ireland, the English ships were on the alert to watch and blockade the western coast of Wales, and, by the fortification of Milford Haven, to hold the port of embarkation for the sister island. In the wilderness of Tivy, and amid the fastnesses of the mountains, moors and marshes, the Welsh still held their own, and still breathed vengeance on the invaders. They would have been still more formidable to these, but for their mutual differences and feuds.

As yet, however, little impression had been made on the northern portion of the Principality, and Edward I. set himself to this great enterprise. He had learned in the Crusades to

endure all sorts of military hardship, and to encounter all kinds of obstacles ; and he now prepared in earnest for the invasion and thorough subjugation of North Wales. He did not want for pretexts for his invasion. He complained that Llewellyn had not kept a treaty made some time before, by which both parties had bound themselves not to harbour or protect the enemies or revolted subjects of the other ; but this was as true of Edward as of the Welsh prince. He complained that Llewellyn had not done homage as the vassal of the English crown, which he had consented to do, and an accident enabled Edward to drive the Welsh prince to acts of hostility. Llewellyn, in the reign of Henry III., had taken part against that monarch with the barons, and with Simon de Montfort, their leader. He had now contracted a marriage with Elinor de Montfort, the daughter of the deceased earl, who was on her voyage from France to Wales, when, with Emeric, her younger brother, she was seized by some English ships and sent to Edward. Llewellyn justly complained of this outrage on a prince with whom the English king was at peace, and demanded the instant release of his bride. But of this Edward took no notice, and Llewellyn in his resentment committed some ravages on the English borders. This was enough for Edward : he would have found some pretence for the invasion of Wales, had this not presented itself, or he would have commenced it without ; but now he set forward at once, under the guise of the injured party.

After the feast of Easter, 1277, he marched out of Westminster with a force which increased as he advanced northwards. At Midsummer he crossed the Dee, and invested and took the Castles of Flint and Rhuddlan. Here he remained strengthening these fortresses at his leisure, spreading his fleet along the coast, and cutting off all Llewellyn's supplies

from the Isle of Anglesea. Llewellyn and his forces were compelled to retreat into the mountains ; whilst his false and unpatriotic brother David had joined the English invader, was living in his camp, and was rewarded by an English bride, the daughter of an English earl, for his treason. David was himself created an English baron, and was promised great estates and honour for his services in tracking his brother and countrymen into their mountain retreats, and for the enslavement of his country. On the arrival of winter, with famine added to its other terrors, Llewellyn was compelled to sue for peace. This was dictated to him at the Castle of Rhuddlan on the 10th of November, and these were the conditions :—He was to cede the whole of the Principality as far as the river Conway ; to do homage for the remainder, and deliver hostages for the keeping of these terms and for the maintenance of peace. He was allowed to retain Anglesea ; but that was to fall to the English crown in case he died without issue male ; and even during his life-possession of it he was to pay an annual rental of 1,000 marks. Besides all this he was to pay down a fine of fifty thousand pounds. On the other hand, Edward engaged to surrender Elinor de Montfort.

It was impossible for Llewellyn to pay the enormous fine, and Edward made a merit of remitting that as well as the rent of Anglesea ; but he delayed to deliver up Llewellyn's bride, and nearly a year elapsed before he did this. In the meantime the English invaders, by their insolences and aggressions, roused the warm blood of the Welsh into resistance. They derided the national customs of the Welsh, ridiculed their poverty, made constant encroachment on their lands, and cut down the woods especially exempt from their touch by the treaty. David, the brother of Llewellyn, amid the favours and honours received for the ruin of his country, saw these atrocities and

indignities perpetrated on his own people, and grew ashamed of his conduct. He passed over to his brother, made reconciliation with him, and joined him in repelling and punishing the haughty conquerors. On the night of Palm Sunday, 1282, David, as some amends for his past treason, attacked and made himself master of Hawarden Castle, killed most of the defenders, and wounded and took prisoner the proprietor, Roger Clifford, the justiciary, and a man who, though honoured by the English, was charged by the Welsh with being one of their most cruel oppressors. There was a general rising of the Welsh; they descended in torrents from their mountains, and headed by the two brothers, Llewellyn and David, advanced to the attack of Flint and Rhuddlan. Edward had rendered these impervious to their means of assault; but they took and destroyed other fortresses, and drove many of the English over the Marches.

On the receipt of this news, Edward hastily summoned together a strong body of troops, and once more marched for North Wales. Before he commenced operations there, which he now meant to be of the most decisive character, he received powerful reinforcements, and, attended by 1,000 pioneers, he advanced towards Flint and Rhuddlan, driving before him all opposition. Leaving those strongholds in his rear well garrisoned, he took up his quarters at Conway, and sent forward his troops to recover the country betwixt that place and Anglesea. His fleet at the same time sailed along the coast, and enabled his troops to reduce Anglesea. His large band of pioneers cut down woods and opened up roads into the very heart of the Snowdon group of mountains. There, however, the Welsh in their despair fought furiously, and in the narrow defiles of the hills they presented obstacles to the advance of the English troops, which were not overcome without terrible slaughter. But Edward still had fresh supplies of soldiers

marching down from England, or conveyed by his vessels along the coast, to replace the victims sacrificed to his ambition ; and, determined to conquer the country at any cost, he procured the services of a species of troops fully accustomed to mountain warfare, being mountaineers themselves. These were bands of Basques from the Pyrenees, who climbed the steepest rocks and threaded the most intricate valleys with as much lightness and rapidity as the Welsh themselves. These active and relentless enemies took the Welsh by surprise in their most concealed fastnesses, and by their aid Edward chased them from their last places of refuge. Descending from the hills, no longer their impregnable bulwarks, they, however, fell on Edward's troops, who were crossing into Anglesea, with the fury of despair. They found them engaged in constructing a bridge of boats across the Menai Straits, and, attacking them before it was finished, and whilst some were on one side and some on the other, at the time of high tide, when their unfinished bridge was useless, they effected a great slaughter of them, and amongst them a great number of the hated Basques and Gascons. On this occasion fell under the weapons of the exasperated Welsh, or in the waves, borne down by their heavy armour, thirteen knights, seventeen esquires, and many hundreds of foot-soldiers.

Edward was himself still lying at Conway, probably planning or commencing the castle there, which was to hold the Welsh in check, and afford a strong position for his troops in case of another general rising. He now, however, advanced in person to chastise their audacity ; but in a desperate encounter with Llewellyn himself he suffered a signal defeat, had two of his ablest generals killed, and was obliged to seek his own safety in retreat to one of his castles. Llewellyn and his brave subjects were now highly elated, and felt confident that with

the approaching winter they should succeed in driving the proud enemy entirely out of their borders. But the resources of Edward were not so soon exhausted. Protected by his strong castles of Flint and Rhuddlan, he could wait the operation of other plans, and the Welsh soon found that he had a strong army now advancing from Pembrokeshire and Caermarthen, through South Wales, to take them on that side, while Edward himself fell upon them from the north. To meet this double danger, Llewellyn left his brother David to keep Edward at bay in this quarter, and himself marched south to meet the advancing forces. But the English, who seem to have had good information of his progress and strength, suddenly surprised him near Builth, in the vale of the Wye; and whilst he was separated from the main body of his troops, and as he was reposing himself, divested of his armour, killed him, cut off his head, and sent it to Edward; who despatched it to London to be placed in the Tower, crowned with a diadem of willow; in mockery of a Welsh prophecy, that a Prince of Wales would be crowned in England,—a prophecy often since fulfilled, but in a sense very different to what the Welsh or the prophet himself imagined.

This terrible blow scattered confusion and despair amongst the Welsh. Many of the chieftains made the best terms they could with the conqueror; but Prince David, who had now done bitter penance for his early desertion of his brave brother, still maintained the hopeless conflict for about six months. His end must have seemed to him dictated by a severe Providence, as the peculiar punishment of his own crime towards his prince, his brother, and his country. As he had betrayed their cause, he was now betrayed by some of his own countrymen and followers, and delivered a captive, with his wife and children, to the inexorable conqueror at Rhuddlan Castle.

Edward disgraced himself by putting David to death with all the ignominy and brutal cruelty attached to the death of a traitor ; forgetting that he was no traitor, but a brave man who had been bravely fighting for the liberties of his country. It is true that his doom was fixed with all the solemn formality of a parliament held at Shrewsbury in the following September, but it was wholly at the option of Edward thus to try him or to acquit him. He was hanged, drawn, and quartered, and his limbs then sent to be exposed in different places, because, as it was stated by proclamation, he had “conspired the death of his lord the king.”

Thus fell the royal line of Llewellyn the Great, and the last liberties of the Principality. There were yet much remaining ferment of an indignant population, and some desperate attempts to revive a general resistance, but they were all in vain ; and Edward spent a year in North Wales after the death of Llewellyn in devising measures for securing the dominion that he had won there. The first step was a wise one. Immediately after the fall of Llewellyn at Builth, he issued a proclamation offering peace and the enjoyment of all their lands and personal liberties to the people ; assuring them that they should be put on the same footing in those respects with his subjects of England. He also ordered a reduction of taxes, and, whilst he introduced the general laws of England, he respected, as far as possible, the ancient usages of the country. He divided the whole Principality into shires and hundreds, bringing it thus into conformity with the rest of the kingdom, and at the same time facilitating its civil government and the preservation of tranquillity. He gave liberal charters and privileges to various trading and mining companies, thus alluring the inhabitants by the hope of profit from their mountains ; and amongst the towns thus benefited, were Caernarvon,

Rhuddlan, Aberystwith, and others. Whilst, however, he endeavoured to mollify the spirit of the Welsh by the extension to them of civil, social, and commercial advantages, he did not trust by any means wholly to these, but planned the erection of a chain of strong fortresses which should command the north as completely as the south was commanded by the same means. And thus arose, with others, the three princely strongholds of Conway, Beaumaris, and Caernarvon.

The castle of Conway seems to have been commenced a couple of years later than Caernarvon Castle; Caernarvon being begun immediately on the defeat and death of Llewellyn, that is, in 1282, or in the spring of 1283. Conway was not commenced till the following year 1284, when, finding that these two castles were not sufficient to keep the Welsh in check, Edward erected the castle of Beaumaris, in 1295. There is a great resemblance in the style of the two castles of Conway and Beaumaris—they have round towers; whilst Caernarvon has octagonal, hexagonal and pentagonal ones. The castle of Conway was still further defended by the town on the land side, being also enclosed with a high wall and round towers, which yet remain. Every one is struck with the Moorish look of these walls and towers, and the tradition is that Edward had them raised after the model of such as he had been familiar with in the Crusades. The castle of Beaumaris is curious from several causes. Though built on the banks of Beaumaris Bay, it has no natural source of strength whatever. It stands on a flat in an open country, rather commanded by the landward slopes than otherwise. For this reason, it was not only surrounded by a deep moat, well supplied with water from a never-failing spring, and also from the sea, but it is enclosed in a high, strong wall, with round towers and battlements, and every arrangement for those within annoying an enemy without. Between

this encircling ballium and the castle itself there is a wide space, so that any enemy making himself master of this wall would have the same process to commence again with the castle itself, which is also defended by strong towers, and by walls of an enormous thickness. There is a covered way, called the Gunner's Walk, running out at right angles from near the main gateway towards the sea, which it appears at the time of the building of the castle came directly up to the outer ballium. Under cover of this way the garrison could make sallies to attack any vessels approaching that side. Nor are these all the precautions of defence. On observing the gateways, though both those in the ballium and in the castle are on the opposite sides, they are not exactly opposite. The gateway in the ballium towards the sea is considerably on one side of the next gateway in the castle, and this is the case also on the other side of the castle. The effect of this would be to baffle greatly any enemy who had forced either of the outer gates. They would not find the inner gate directly before them, but on one side; so that their onward impetus would be broken; their means of directing any catapult or other machine against the inner gate would be diminished; and in case that, on the forcing in of the outer gate, the inner one was not secured, it would give the garrison more time for that purpose.

The castle of Caernarvon, which is the one now engaging our attention, differs greatly from these other two; and if not more striking in appearance than that of Conway,—than which Pennant says “one more beautiful never arose,”—it is equal in grandeur, and has, in truth, a royal and most stately air. Its situation is very fine; for, though it stands in the not very splendid town of Caernarvon, it is placed on the shore of the Menai Straits; and, looked down upon from a rocky eminence called Fort Hill, a good view is obtained of it and

the town, of the Menai Straits, the opposite shore of Anglesea, with the distant summits of the Holyhead and Parys hills, the blue peaks of the Eifflridge, in the promontory of Llyn, the group of mountains surrounding Snowdon, and on a clear day the far-off heights of Wicklow, in Ireland. The architect



CAERNARVON CASTLE.

employed by Edward I., in its erection, was Henry Ellerton, or de Elreton ; and, according to tradition, many of the materials were brought from Segontium, or the old Caernarvon, and much of the limestone of which it is built came from Twr-Celyn, in Anglesea ; and of the gritstone from Vaenol, in the county of Caernarvon : the Menai facilitating the carriage from both places.

The foundations of the castle are surrounded on three sides by water. It is bounded on one side by the Menai Straits, on another by the estuary of the Seoint, the river which runs hither from the Lake of Llanberis. As you approach the castle, its walls and towers have an air of lightness, which deceives you completely as to its strength, for these walls are immensely thick and strong. The doorways in the gateway towers and the windows are more lofty and graceful than the doors and windows generally in castles of that age. The walls enclose an area of about three acres, and are themselves from seven to nine feet thick. They have within them each a gallery, with slips for the discharge of arrows, and are flanked by thirteen towers, all angular, but differing in the number of their angles. The very massive pentagonal tower, called the Eagle Tower, guards the fouth of the Seoint, and is so called from a now shapeless figure of that bird, said to have been brought from the ruins of the neighbouring Roman station of Segontium, but probably placed there simply as being one of Edward I.'s crests. This majestic tower has three turrets, and its battlements display a mutilated series of armour heads of the time of Edward II. This tower is the only one of which the staircase remains perfect, and by 158 stone steps you may ascend to the summit, and obtain a splendid view thence over the straits, the town, and the surrounding country. In the lower part of this tower is shown a small dark room, measuring 12 feet by 8 feet, in which Edward II. was born. That unfortunate prince was most probably born in the castle; but it has been endeavoured to be shown that it could not possibly be in this tower, as it would appear not to have been built for some years afterwards, and, indeed, only to have been finished by Edward II. after he became King of England. The Rev. C. H. Hartshorne, of Cogenhoe, in Northamptonshire,

asserted at the annual meeting of the Cambrian Archæological Society, held at Caernarvon in September, 1848, that this castle, instead of being built, as Pennant and others represent, in about two years, was not completed in less than thirty-eight years—that it was begun in 1284, and only completed in 1322.

As Edward first entered the town of Caernarvon on the 1st of April, 1284, and his son was born on the 25th of the same month, twenty-four days only are left for the building of the Eagle Tower, which would be work, not for English or Welsh builders, but for the Afrits of the “Arabian Nights,” and would seem to put an end to the whole tradition of Edward of Caernarvon having been born in the room assigned him by popular assertion. And yet tradition so often maintains itself against statistics, and against theories started long afterwards, that we should not be surprised if, after all, the first Prince of Wales was actually born in that little, dismal room. In the then disturbed condition of North Wales; amid the intense indignation of the Welsh at the murder of their beloved prince, and the barbarous execution of his brother David; under the well-known spirit of revolt and revenge which was fiercely fermenting in the minds of the natives, it is not likely that Edward would risk the safety of his wife and his infant in the open town. No doubt he had ordered the erection of a stronghold here immediately on the fall of Llewellyn. This was in the autumn of 1282, and Edward was born, it is said, in the castle of Caernarvon, on the 25th of April, 1284. Here was a good part of two years in which a strong building might have been raised sufficient for a stout defence: and this is probably what is meant when it is said by the historians that Edward commenced this castle in A.D. 1282-3, and completed it in two or three years. It is most probable that he did commence and complete such a castle as answered his immediate

purpose, and that in this castle his son Edward was born; that Edward I., however, contemplated and erected a much larger and more imposing castle on the spot—the present structure; and that he caused the part in which his son's birth took place to be encased in the larger building, and that it forms an internal part of the present Eagle Tower, just as the poet Thomson's cottage at Richmond now forms a portion of the larger villa of the Earl of Shaftesbury. It may be remarked that there is no appearance of any different masonry on the exterior of this part of the Eagle Tower. Of course not. The architect would new-front that part in uniformity with the rest; but that need not in the least disturb the existence of this room.

That is our opinion of the real fact; and it is one which at once reconciles the tradition and the proofs that the present splendid fabric was not completed in two years, but in two reigns. All Mr. Hartshorne's statistical facts may be fully admitted, and the tradition of the place remain untouched. We ourselves have just as much, or rather more, faith in tradition than in statistics; for, in scores of cases, tradition has asserted itself successfully against apparent facts, and, in scores of cases, statistics have proved very delusive. That Edward I. would be very sure to preserve the *locale* of his son's birth, and that the Welsh would vividly retain a knowledge of it, may be inferred from the part which Edward meant to play with his son, and the delusive hope which his plan excited in the minds of the Welsh. He presented this infant son to them, and told them that they should have a native Welshman for their prince. As Alphonso, Edward's eldest son, was still living, the Welsh, in their ardent patriotism, fondly jumped to the idea that they would have their own principality under a prince of their own. Alphonso died, Edward of Caernarvon became King of England,

and that hope was at once sternly quenched. Under such circumstances, the Welsh were not likely to forget the spot where the prince on whom such hopes were hinged first saw the light. We may, therefore, without much chance of mistake, accept at once the facts that Edward II. was born in this very tower, and yet that the Eagle Tower was not completed till the tenth year of the second Edward's reign.

The main gateway of the castle is flanked by lofty towers, of vast strength. Over the grand entrance arch stands, in a niche, a mutilated statue of Edward I., with his hand upon a half-drawn sword, as if to intimate that he was equally prepared to pluck it forth on any menace of resistance, or to sheathe it at the desire for peace. In the archway beneath are grooves for four portcullises. The entrance on the east side is called the Queen's Gate, because Queen Eleanor is said by tradition to have entered the castle by it. On passing into the interior you observe the traces, on the two opposite buildings, of a partition wall having formerly divided it into two courts. Much of the interior is cleared away, leaving exposed one of the fine corridors, which led from one part of the castle to another. On the south-east side is some modern building, which has been raised within the old walls. Several of the dungeons are yet visible; and in one of these was confined, in the reign of Charles I., the celebrated William Prynne.

No more zealous, fiery, and yet honest spirit, certainly was ever confined here than Prynne. He was at once a lawyer of Lincoln's Inn and a determined Puritan. His famous "*Histriomastix, or a Scourge for Stage Players*," being supposed to reflect on Henrietta, the Queen of Charles I., who had herself acted in a pastoral at Somerset House, Prynne was prosecuted in the Star Chamber; and his sentence and its rigid execution are a striking proof of the savage spirit of the age, though it

was already near the middle of the seventeenth century, namely, in 1634. He was fined £3,000, expelled from the University of Oxford and the Society of Lincoln's Inn, degraded from the bar, set in the pillory, both his ears cut off, his book burnt publicly by the hangman, and himself condemned to perpetual imprisonment. But no amount of cruelty could tame that daring foul. Whilst still imprisoned in the Tower, and after three years' duration, he launched forth another book, reflecting severely on the hierarchy generally, and particularly on the popish follies and political despotism of Archbishop Laud. For this he was further sentenced by the infamous Star Chamber to be fined £5,000, to be again set in the pillory, to be branded on both cheeks with the letters S. and L., for Seditious Libeller, to have the very roots of his ears dug out by the hangman, and to be imprisoned in this castle of Caernarvon.

But the event showed that there was a spirit afloat which these fierce barbarities of regal tyranny were only rousing into a degree of fury which would sweep both church and throne from the land. The Puritan friends of Prynne flocked to Caernarvon Castle in such numbers, that the poor mutilated prisoner fate more like a monarch holding a perpetual levee than a convict who had endured the vilest insults and the savagest brutalities of the law. Only ten weeks had elapsed since Prynne was brought to this royal stronghold when he was illegally removed by a warrant from the Lords of the Council, and removed to the castle of Mount Orgueil, in the island of Jersey.

The current of democracy, however, was running at full tide, and 1641 saw Prynne released from Mount Orgueil by a warrant of the Speaker of the Long Parliament, and received at Southampton on his landing with all the honours and applauses

of a Roman conqueror in an ovation. A little time saw him a member of Parliament, restored as a bencher of Lincoln's Inn, and made Recorder of Bath. Yet, most barbarously and shamefully treated as Prynne had been by the king, he did not let this embitter his spirit against him, or lead him to assist in condemning him to death. On the contrary, he denied the supremacy of Parliament, protested against the assumptions of Cromwell, and was now imprisoned in turn by the republican power. He saw himself thrust into the dungeon of Dunster Castle, in Somersetshire, and afterwards of Pendennis Castle, in Cornwall. He was expelled Parliament, declared incapable of holding any office in the Commonwealth, and deprived of the recordership of Bath. He was one of the first to work with the reactionary party for the Restoration, and on the accomplishment of that event was again restored to his recordership of Bath and his seat in Parliament, and was made keeper of the records in the Tower, where he had formerly been a prisoner. Yet even here did not end his troubles; for his free expression of his opinion on Government matters subjected him to the censures of the House of Commons. Besides his political doings and writings, Prynne was a voluminous author, as his "Calendar of Parliament" and his "Records" testify. It is curious that in these last he endeavours to prove the supremacy of the Kings of England in ecclesiastical affairs, as shown by the public records from the earliest times to those of Edward I., the latest period which he lived to illustrate.

There is no reminiscence more lively than that of the short incarceration of Prynne in this castle. One of its earliest historical events was the surprise of it by Madoc, a natural son of Llewellyn, in 1295, and his retention of it till Edward I. expelled him from it. In 1402 Owen Glendower made a successful attempt to seize several of the Welsh castles, but was

repulsed from the gates of this stronghold. In the wars of the Roses it repeatedly changed masters, and in 1644 Cromwell's forces obtained possession of it, made 400 of the garrison prisoners, and enriched themselves with much spoil. Lord Byron soon after retook it for the king; but in 1646 the Parliament regained it. In 1660, the first year of Charles II., an order was issued for the demolition of the castle; but, fortunately, it was not completely carried out. The property still continues in the possession of the Crown; and the Marquis of Anglesea holds the office of constable of it, as well as that of mayor of the town and ranger of Snowdon Forest.

A short distance from the Castle, on the steep bank of the river Seoint, are yet remaining some strong walls of a Roman fort; and not far from them, between the town and the church of Llanbeblig, is the site of the Roman station of Segontium. That martial people saw, as well as the warlike Edward, the advantages of this situation for keeping in check both the Welsh mountaineers and the islanders of Anglesea. An extension of the Chester and Holyhead Railway to Caernarvon enables tourists to visit easily this very noble and interesting castle. Camden says that in his time Caernarvon was "comprehended within a small and almost circular extent of strong walls, the west side being entirely occupied by its beautiful castle." Camden also, speaking of the remains of the old Roman fort, near Segontium, says, "On the opposite side of the Seoint, about half a mile from the town, are the ruins of a Roman fort, its walls entire on three sides, about ten feet high, and near four feet thick, built of rude stones strongly cemented together, and enclosing an area of about eighty yards from east to west, by forty-five from north to south; the west side, overhanging the steep bank of the river, has no traces of a wall. Helena, the wife of Constantine, is said to have had a chapel

here, and her name is also preserved in a well half a mile below on the river side, very good “for bathing little lads when they be very sick for want of wind breath, after being cleaned by a broom from the flaver.” This is a quotation from an older author, probably from Leland. The well appears to have been a spa; and the broom, no doubt, was intended to clear the scum from its surface, not from the “little sick lad,” as would at first sight appear the meaning of the passage.



The Priory of Lindisfarne.



AMONGST those wild and stern basaltic rocks and islands which stud the North-umbrian coast, the haunts of myriads of sea-fowls, and the sporting-grounds of fierce winds, the largest is Lindisfarne, or Holy Island; so called from its having become, very early in the Saxon times, the seat of a community of Christian priests. This island is directly opposite Beal, near the great north road, and now a station on the North-Eastern Railway. On its north-west point, indeed, there runs out a narrow promontory to within half a mile of the Northumberland strand. From the coast below Beal there is a way marked out across the sands by a line of posts; and the passage over these sands, which are bare at low-water, is something more than two miles. The country-people pass over on foot or with carts at such times, but it is by no means safe for strangers. The sands in the deepest part are seldom so free from water as to supersede the necessity of wading above the shoes; and there are quicksands, which have not unfrequently swallowed up horses and carriages, as the records of the country show. Perhaps the best crossing is from the lower end of Fenham Flats, nearer to Belford, where the coast sweeps round south-east, and runs in a long promontory into the sea, to a point

called the Old Law, whence the passage to Lindisfarne is only about half a mile, and boats are always in readiness to fetch you over.

The walk along the coast to this point is extremely wild. The fury of tempests has thrown up a chaos of sand-hills, and



LINDISFARNE ; GENERAL VIEW.

the riotous waves have torn out caverns and hollows, and scattered the beach with sea-weeds, shells, and drift, at high-water mark. The long, thin sea-grass on the sand-hills hisses in the wind as you advance, and behind other hills before you

the sea booms solemnly. Here and there you come upon a fisherman's hut amid the sand-hills, with boats, pitch-cafks, and old boards, the relics of wrecks, scattered about. As you advance, the ancient Priory, and to its right the Castle,—the two chief buildings of the island,—rise more and more boldly before you, just as Sir Walter Scott described them in the voyage of the Abbess of Whitby and her nuns in “Marmion.”

Higher and higher rose to view
The Castle with its battled walls,
The ancient monastery's halls,
A solemn, huge and dark-red pile,
Placed on the margin of the isle.

As you approach, you are struck by the dark cliffs that gird the island, flanked by enormous masses of rock fallen from them to the sea-beach. You land and find yourselves near the ruins of the Abbey, with a fishing village adjoining it, and across a moorish flat, at about half a mile distant, the castle built into the summit of a stern pile of rocks. It is altogether a fishing place, with its boats on the shore, its refuse of fish, and its drying-houses for the herring season. There are children at play, fishermen going about, slovenly-looking village streets, thatched huts, and the grand old ruins of the abbey.

We stand and wonder what in the olden time could have induced the holy fathers to choose such a desolate spot for their abode. It could not have been for the love of scenery, it must have been for the love of souls. At present the population of the whole island is about 1,000 souls, who have one resident clergyman; but formerly, no doubt, the fame of the place drew worshippers from very distant regions. And in truth, we may see that a certain resemblance to Iona, the original school of British Christianity in the North, probably determined the

fettlement of the brethren here. The very air of desolation reminded them of their northern home : the margin of the sea, with its wild, tumbling waves, and the church a landmark far around to the inquirers after the faith that taught self-denial and the aspiration after a higher world.

In our account of Iona in our previous volume, we related the circumstances under which Lindisfarne became one of the first seats of Christianity in the North of England, as Glastonbury was at a much earlier date in the South. Iona was sending forth its devoted apostles, not only into different parts of Britain, but to many a distant part of the Continent, ere the usurping power of Rome had closed the way against so simple and unambitious a race of teachers. Whilst St. Columb and his companions were Christianizing the Picts of Scotland, as his predecessors had Christianized the people of Ireland, Columbanus,—a younger and different man to Columb,—and his friend Gall, went forth into Switzerland and France. Having settled schools of the faith in the Vosges, Columbanus advanced to Lombardy. Agilulf went and founded the convent of Bobbio in the Apennines. Clement conveyed the Gospel to Bavaria, assisted by Sampson and Virgilius. The latter penetrated into Carinthia, and became Bishop of Salzburg. These great evangelists were followed by John Scotus Erigena, who settled at the court of Charles the Bald; by Claude Clement, called Claude of Turin, from his station there; but who afterwards founded the University of Paris, as John Scott, called Albinus, did that of Pavia. Sedulius, labouring in the North of Italy, afterwards became Bishop of Oreta in Spain, as Donatus did of Fiesole in Italy; and it was by these men of Hibernia and Iona that the doctrine of Christ was established in the Cisalpine valleys, and maintained its purity in the Waldensian church, in defiance of all the power and persecutions of Rome.

It was the lot of the meek but zealous Aidan to become the apostle of the North of England. We learn from Bede that Donald the Fourth, King of Scotland, had embraced the faith from the preaching of some of these simple Culdees from the West, and had given an asylum to Acca, the widow of Ethelfrith, King of Northumberland, and to her seven sons, who had fled into Scotland with her from the wrath of their uncle Edwin. Donald seized the opportunity to instil into the minds of these Saxon princes the truth of Christianity. On the death of Edwin two of them returned to Northumberland, and reigned there, one over Bernicia and the other over Deira. But they relapsed into idolatry, and soon fell in the invasion of Cedwell, King of Cumberland, and were both killed by him, one in battle, one in cold blood. Oswald, who was the second son of Ethelfrith, then made an attempt to reconquer his rightful dominions; but, seeing the strength of the enemy, and the fewness of his followers, he threw himself on the power of the only true God, planted the cross in the front of his army, and on his knees implored the Lord of Heaven to vindicate the rights of Christ and of himself. Victory fate on his banners; he recovered all Northumberland, and, thus confirmed in the new faith, he not only proclaimed himself a Christian, but laboured anxiously to convert his subjects to that faith. He applied to Donald of Scotland to send him a teacher of the truth; and Donald sent to Iona, to request one to be hastened to Northumberland. Corman, a pious but austere brother, was selected on this mission; but he soon returned dispirited to Iona, saying, "The Northumbrians are so obstinate, we must renounce all idea of changing their manners." As Aidan heard this he said to himself, "O, my Saviour! if thy love had been offered to this people, many hearts would have been touched! I will go and make Thee known—Thee who broke not the

bruised reed !” Then turning to Corman, he said, “ Brother, you have been too severe towards hearers so dull of heart. You should have given them spiritual milk to drink, until they were able to receive more solid food.” All eyes were at once turned on Aidan ; and the brethren exclaimed, “ Aidan is worthy of the episcopate ! ” And accordingly Aidan was sent to Northumberland.

At that time Northumberland extended in a line from the Cheviots to the Tweed, and Roxburghshire was part, not of Scotland, but of that kingdom. Melrose seems to have been the location first selected by Aidan, who arrived in Northumberland in 635 ; but he soon resigned the charge to one of his disciples, and, moving southward, fixed his abode in the desolate island of Lindisfarne, amid the roar of the ocean, and exposed to the ravages of the fierce sea-rovers of the time.

The account which Bede gives us of Aidan is like that of one of the primitive apostles. He traversed the country on foot to teach the rude inhabitants, accepting the poorest accommodation, and undaunted by any neglect of his teachings or any opposition. In time he succeeded in converting the chiefs, and then the bulk of the people. He died in the year 651, the seventeenth of his episcopacy, of grief, it is said by Godwin, for the death of the king who had proved so true a friend to the faith and to him. He was succeeded by Ferian, another monk from Iona, who converted both Peada, the son of Penda, King of the Mercians, who had invaded Northumberland and killed King Oswine, and Sigebert, king of the East Angles, and they sent for four priests to preach to their subjects. He was in turn succeeded by Colman, who also came direct from Iona ; and in the third year of Colman’s episcopacy there arose a controversy with the Roman church regarding the proper time of keeping Easter, as well as the

mode of tonsure. This had begun on the first appearance of Aidan on the scene, as it had met the British monks in every quarter where they approached the Roman ones; but it was now raised to an intensity which demanded settlement, and it was agreed to call a synod at Whitby, before the Abbess Hilda, to determine these points. The question was decided against the British priests; and Colman, rather than fall into the Roman practice, returned to Iona. In fact, the question included not merely the points directly at issue, but that of the supremacy of Rome, which was everywhere asserted, and which the apostles of Iona would not admit, any more than their followers the Waldenses. Eata, one of twelve English boys whom Aidan had educated, was at this juncture Bishop of Melrose; he conformed, and one of his priests, named Tuda, went to Lindisfarne, and succeeded to Colman. Thus both Melrose and Lindisfarne fell under the Roman rule. Tuda died of a pestilence in a few months, and was succeeded by Eata, the Bishop of Melrose. He was the last of what were called the Scottish bishops; that is, Iona bishops; and Bede, though opposed to them on questions of the tonsure and the true keeping of Easter, takes the opportunity to pay them the highest eulogiums on their simple lives and zealous piety. In the church only was magnificence allowed. Their possessions consisted chiefly of cattle, for they only retained money till they could distribute it to the poor. When the king came there it was purely for the exercise of the rites of religion, and he was attended only by a few followers; and if he partook of refreshment it was the ordinary frugal diet of the monks. As for temporal affairs, they refused to meddle in them, considering that the business of temporal authorities, and theirs to attend to the spiritual needs of their flocks. Hence they were universally admired and beloved by the people.

Eata, understanding that Cuthbert, who was Bishop of Hexham, would prefer Lindisfarne, resigned it to him in 685. St. Cuthbert had originally been a shepherd near Melrose ; but, as he tended his sheep on the banks of the Leder, he saw a vision of the spirit of Aidan ascending into heaven. This divine spectacle had such an effect on his mind that he determined to dedicate himself to the same holy life which had thus glorified the good bishop. He applied to Eata, and was received into the monastery. He removed with Eata to Lindisfarne, and became prior there, till Eata resigned the see to him. Lindisfarne was a place after his own heart. He strengthened himself here by prayer and meditation, and by long and arduous rambles through the moorlands and mountains of Northumberland, preaching to the half-savage population in the glens and fastnesses whither the sound of the gospel had never yet reached. After fourteen years of such labours, though of only about two years as bishop, St. Cuthbert retired to one of the Farn Isles, a few miles southward, and in the one nearest to the land,—called thence the House Island,—built himself a hut of stone and turf, and gave himself up to prayer and meditation, like one of the old ascetics in the Thebaic desert. It is said that he maintained himself by vegetables that he cultivated ; which must have been one of the greatest of his miracles, for the winds sweep over this desolate island now with such force as to carry away any vegetation. Once his friends prevailed on him to return to the monastery, but he soon quitted it again, and went back to his hut, where he died, and whence his body was conveyed to Lindisfarne, and deposited near the high altar ; but on his deathbed the saint, foreseeing the destruction of this monastery by the inroads of foreign enemies, took a pledge of the brethren that whenever they were forced to quit it, they should carry his bones with them.

The predicted invasion did not take place for 105 years, when the Danes and other barbarians fell upon it, destroyed or drove away the monks, and pillaged the church. The monks who escaped, however, this time returned and restored the monastery to a habitable condition. But nearly a century afterwards (in 887) the Danes made a more murderous descent upon it: the holy brethren took up the relics of the saint, and quitted the place, which was on this occasion so far demolished by the barbarians that it was never restored, though a cell was maintained there till the reign of Henry VIII., when all the monasteries and their cells were suppressed. The body was conveyed to Melrose, and, the monks again removing, it was deposited for 113 years at Chester-le-Street, the see remaining there for that time. The brethren fleeing thence from fear of pirates, the saint's body was removed to Ripon, and finally to Durham, St. Cuthbert and Lindisfarne becoming thus the parents of that great bishopric. The legends of this miraculous wandering of the remains of the saint are well told by Scott in the second book of "Marmion:"—

Nor did St. Cuthbert's daughters fail
 To vie with these in holy tale;
 His body's resting-place, of old,
 How oft their patron changed, they told;
 How, when the rude Danes burned their pile,
 The monks fled forth from Holy Isle;
 O'er northern mountain, marsh and moor,
 From sea to sea, from shore to shore,
 Seven years St. Cuthbert's corpse they bore.
 They rested then in fair Melrose;
 But, though alive he loved it well,
 Not there his relics might repose,
 For, wondrous tale to tell!
 In his stone coffin forth he rides,
 A ponderous bark for river tides,
 Yet light as gossamer it glides
 Downward to Tilmouth cell.
 Nor long was his abiding there,
 For southward did the saint repair;

Chester-le-Street and Ripon faw
 His holy corpe, ere Wardelaw
 Hailed him with joy and fear ;
 And after many wanderings passed,
 He chose his lordly feat at last,
 Where his cathedral, huge and vast,
 Looks down upon the Wear ;
 There deep in Durham's Gothic shade
 His relics are in secret laid :
 But none may know the place,
 Save of his holiest servants three,
 Deep sworn to solemn secrecy,
 Who share that wondrous grace.

In this account Scott wilfully violates the truth of history by giving St. Cuthbert daughters. No nuns were ever allowed in Lindisfarne, or at any other shrine of this saint. No woman of any kind after his death was suffered to set foot in his shrine, or his abbey. His honour had been aspersed by a fair, false princess, in his youth, and could only be cleared by a miracle. Henceforth he kept all women at a distance, not even letting his monks keep a cow ; for he said, " Where there is a cow there is a woman, and where there is a woman there is mischief." Even the great Queen Philippa, who had, by the saint's aid, won the battle of Neville's Cross, was not allowed to sleep in the Abbey, on a subsequent visit with her husband Edward III. The monks having discovered this horrible fact at midnight, roused her from her sleep, and, hastily collecting her garments, she had to flee to the castle. Yet this aversion did not overcome the saint's pious benevolence ; for we find in his life many instances of his curing women miraculously of the most serious complaints.

Excellent descriptions of the very interesting ruins of Lindisfarne Priory may be found in Hutchinson's History of Durham, in Surtees' History, and in Grose's Antiquities. Grose says :—" The nave of the church consists of a wide centre and two

fide aisles, the columns of which are heavy, and the arches circular. In the superstructure of the north and south walls pointed arches appear. The windows are narrow, ornamented with a corner pilaster, and a moulding of a few members. The walls are very thick, and every part wears a gloomy



LINDISFARNE PRIORY: RAINBOW ARCH.

countenance. The south wall of the middle tower is standing, about fifty feet high, and one corner tower at the west end of the church remains perfect. These ruins still retain one most singular beauty—an arch unloaded with any superstructure,

supported by the south-east and north-west corner pillars, and ornamented with the dancette or zigzag moulding, stretching a fine bow over the chasm of ruins occasioned by the falling-in of the aisles."

This fine airy arch still remains like a "rainbow in the sky," and is consequently called "the Rainbow Arch." The building is chiefly of a soft red sandstone, and is consequently much worn by the weather. The oldest parts of the church are genuine Saxon, with low, sturdy columns, many of them five feet in diameter. Within the ruins stand a rustic chapel and burial-ground crowded with memorials of death by shipwreck and the drowning of fishermen.

No one should visit the ruins of Lindisfarne without walking to the Castle, and from its elevated platform taking a wide and noble view of the island and the surrounding sea and country. As to the island itself you have a complete view of it; the ocean surging all round against its dark rocks; and its little area of cultivation, corn, grass, and potato-patches, but bare of trees, the winds tolerating nothing higher than bushes. Dugdale says, "The prospect from the island is beautiful. To the northward you command the town of Berwick, over an arm of the sea about seven miles in breadth. At near the same distance to the south you view Bamborough Castle, on a promontory. On the one hand, you have a view of the open sea, scattered over with vessels; and on the other hand, a narrow channel, by which this land is insulated, about two miles in width. The distant shore exhibits a beautiful hanging landscape of cultivated country, graced with a multitude of hamlets, villages, and woodlands."

He might have added that betwixt you and the land you see St. Cuthbert's Island, whose legend Scott alludes to thus :—

But fain St. Hilda's nuns would learn,
 If on a rock by Lindisfarne
 St. Cuthbert sits and toils to frame
 The sea-born beads that bear his name.
 Such tales had Whitby's fishers told
 And said they might his shape behold,
 And hear his anvil found :
 A deadened clang, — a huge dim form
 Seen but and heard when gathering storm
 And night were closing round.
 But this, as tale of idle fame,
 The nuns of Lindisfarne disclaim.

These fossils, called *Entrochi*, or, popularly, St. Cuthbert's beads, are still found among the rocks on the north-east side of Holy Island. They are about the size of the seeds of the mallow, and of a dark leaden colour.

From the height of the Castle, now a coastguard station, you have a full view of the black and iron-bound rocks, called the Farn and Staple Islands, the haunts of sea-fowl, and the scene of so many fatal wrecks. On one of the farthest out at sea, called the Longstone rock, stands the lighthouse from whence the brave Grace Darling and her father issued to save the survivors, nine in number, of the passengers of the *Forfarshire* steamer, wrecked on the 7th of September, 1838. Turning landward, the eye in clear weather catches the summit of the Cheviot hills, and in such an atmosphere it ranges southward as far as the ruins of Dunstanborough.

The great pursuit of the present inhabitants of Lindisfarne and the neighbouring coast is fishing. In the herring season there is a great resort to the Farn Isles from different places betwixt Leith and Yarmouth, and even from France. North Sunderland sends out a little fleet of herring-boats, the great ground for the herrings being south-east of the Crumstone Rock. Lindisfarne sends also a great number of lobsters and holibut,

and other fish, to London. Of the ancient pursuits of Lindisfarne some specimens yet exist in illuminated Missals and Gospels, in the library of Durham Cathedral and in the British Museum. The one in the British Museum is the so-called Durham Manuscript, in its rich, jewelled binding. It is a copy of the Four Gospels, written by the learned Bishop of Lindisfarne, Eadfrith, or Egfrid. It is in his own hand, transcribed with all the elegance of Saxon caligraphy. It will be found in the Museum—Nero D., 4—and has been most minutely described by Selden, Marefchall, Smith, Wanley, and, last of all, by Aftle. According to a note at the conclusion of St. Matthew's Gospel, which gives a full account of this most interesting book, the text—that of the Vulgate—was written by Eadfrith; Ethelwald, his successor, supplied the illuminations, which are brilliant beyond conception. Belfrid bestowed upon it a cover of silver and gold, bedecked with precious stones; and, a while after, Aldred, a priest of the house, added an interlinear Dano-Saxon version, with marginal notes. The subsequent history of this book is very curious. It remained in the church at Lindisfarne until the monks were compelled by the Danes to flee from the island, and then it became the companion of their travels. During their flight it fell into the sea, and it is said that a monk saw it in a vision, thrown up uninjured on the coast. On seeking for it, it was there found. At length it reached Durham, with the other treasures of the church; and there it remained till Lindisfarne rose again from its ashes, when it was carried back, and formed an item in the inventories of the priory of Holy Island till its dissolution.

Lindisfarne had many inmates who could bestow wealth on such objects of art and veneration. Several Saxon kings and princes retired to it, and became brethren there. Amongst these was Ceolwulf, King of Northumberland, who resigned his

crown in 737 to Edbert, his cousin, and carried with him to the priory great riches in money and estate. He also introduced ale and wine into the convent, instead of the milk and water of Aidan, their founder. In the reign of Edbert, the successor of Ceolwulf, Offa, a prince of the royal blood, took



LINDISFARNE PRIORY: NORMAN PORCH.

sanctuary in Lindisfarne, from some cause not explained. Edbert, the king, dragged him from the high altar of this sacred place, put him to death at once, and imprisoned the bishop in Bamborough Castle.

Such were the scenes that occasionally disturbed the quiet of this hallowed retirement, when the stormy passions of half-savage princes were added to those of nature. How substantial must have been a fabric, so

Exposed to the tempestuous seas,
Scourged by the winds' eternal sway,
Open to rovers fierce as they,
Which could twelve hundred years withstand
Winds, waves, and northern pirates' hands!



Tynemouth Priory.



THE Priory of Tynemouth was founded in the early Saxon ages, nearly coeval with Whitby and Lindisfarne. It suffered the same ravages from the Danes, and once or twice was totally demolished and left for long years as a heap of ruins. Yet it rose, phoenix-like, from its ashes, and continued till the great era of Henry VIII., which put an end to the glories, abuses, benevolences and crimes, of all these magnificent mansions. Tanner, following Leland and Cressly, asserts that there was a religious house there in the very earliest ages of Christianity in these islands. It would seem to have been originally intended for nuns, and so continued to the time of St. Cuthbert; for Virca, Abbess of Tynemouth, presented to that saint—not seeming to take any offence at his mysogyny—a rare winding-sheet, in emulation of the holy lady Tuda, who had sent him a coffin. Perhaps, however, these peculiar gifts might have a particular meaning, namely, that the ladies would be glad to have him comfortably consigned to his ultimate home. Whatever might be the original structure on this airy spot, we are told by Leland that Edwin, King of Northumberland, erected a nunnery of wood here, and that his daughter Rosella took the veil in it. Oswald, the great patron of the Iona clergy, who began his reign in the year 634, removed

this wooden building and replaced it by one of substantial stone ; from which occurrence he has been represented by many as the original founder of Tynemouth monastery. The place acquired such sanctity that persons fought eagerly to be buried within its walls ; and, amongst those interred within it, was no less a person than Ofwin, King of Deira, who was slain by Ofwy, King of Bernicia, in 651. Again, it was said to owe its foundation to Egfrid, King of Northumberland, who reigned from 671 to 685 ; but during his reign the Danes committed fearful ravages in Northumberland, and most likely destroyed the monastery of Tynemouth, so that Egfrid literally became its restorer.

In this revived state it received the earthly remains of Ofred, King of Northumberland in 792 ; but it was destined to suffer a succession of ravages during the next century and a half from the Danes, sufficient to have deterred all attempts to re-inhabit it. It was plundered by them in 800 ; again by Inguar and Hubba in 866 ; again in 870, when it was occupied by nuns ; by Halfdan the Danish king in 876, only six years after one of these visitations ; and finally in the reign of Athelstan, King of the West Saxons, between 924 and 940. Such was the despair of the monks and nuns of Tynemouth—for it appears to have had both—created by these calamities, that, for a very long time, nothing could induce any of the religious to occupy it. In fact, its situation was itself an invitation to the roving vikings to visit it. It stood on a bold cliff, overhanging the sea, showing itself for leagues over the ocean, and naturally awakening the cupidity of these marauders. At length, when they had left nothing further in Northumberland worth carrying off, the bishop of the diocese begged the site from the Earls of Northumberland, and once more peopled it. Soon after this the sexton dreamed of the spot where lay the remains

of the king and martyr Ofwin. Judith, the wife of Tostig, Earl of Northumberland, supported the sexton in his search; and, the royal bones being discovered and honoured with a stately tomb, conferred a great interest on the monastery. The Danes paid several successive visits to the coast, took and burned the Castle of Bamborough so late as 995, but do not seem to have molested Tynemouth.

In 1074, Tynemouth Priory was deprived of the relics of King Ofwin, which were conferred by Waltheof, Earl of Northumberland, on the monks of Yarrow, who removed them thither. The earl also bestowed the property of Tynemouth, and all its lands, on Yarrow. Yet, though it was even taken from Yarrow, and made a mere cell to the monastery of St. Alban's forever, it became the burial-place of Malcolm, King of Scotland, and his son, Prince Edward, who were killed on St. Brice's-day, 1094. Successive kings confirmed to the monastery all its lands and privileges; and Hugh Pudsey, Bishop of Durham, in 1196, confirmed the monks of Tynemouth in all their tithes in Durham and Northumberland. About this time, however, Matthew Paris tells us that a man got into the monastery in the garb of a monk, who was no monk, but a Judas, and who, secretly watching his opportunity, put the prior's seal to a counterfeit deed, which he handed to one Robert, their enemy, who thereupon began to boast of what was in his power; but, this exciting the prior's suspicion, the fraud was discovered, and the traitor, having over-fed and drank himself, died of apoplexy, and the monks in the cloister said they plainly heard a voice saying,—“Take him, Satan! take him, Satan!”

In the time of Edward II., the Scots, encouraged by his imbecility, made fierce raids into Northumberland, and plundered the Priory of Tynemouth; but some of them, being

taken prisoners, were sent to London and hanged. Edward II.'s queen resided some time in the priory, and a natural son of Edward's, named Ada, was buried there. At the dissolution, the annual revenue of Tynemouth Priory amounted to a clear value of £397 10s. 5½d.; and its manors, manor-houses, villas, and royalties in Northumberland, were numerous, as may be seen in Dugdale. In the reign of Edward VI., the Duke of Northumberland became the possessor of the demesne, lands, and appurtenances of the priory; and Dugdale states the manor of Tynemouth to be in his time in the possession of the Duke of Northumberland, but the site of the monastery in that of the crown.

From very early times there stood a castle in near proximity to the priory. No doubt the exposed situation of the priory, and its frequent ravages by the Danes, rendered this measure necessary, though it could not be very conducive to religious quiet. In early times the prior, however, made use of the castle for confining any of his refractory monks; and Prior John incarcerated there William Pigeon, who contrived to put the prior's seal to a false deed. Newcome, in his History of St. Alban's, says—"During the invasion of England by the Scots, when the English army was absent at the battle of Crecy, Ralph Neville, then keeper of the marches, intended to send all the Scots prisoners to Tynemouth, under pretence of confining them there in the castle, but in reality to eat up the prior and live upon the Church. But Thomas de la Marc, then abbot of St. Alban's, hastened away to the king, who had just arrived at Langley, and petitioned him that he would suffer no one—not even the prior—to lodge prisoners in the castle. During the wars betwixt Charles I. and the Parliament, Tynemouth Castle was besieged and taken by the Scots. A garrison was put in by the Parliament, and the defences im-

proved. Colonel Lilburn was appointed governor, but he declared for the king; and Sir Arthur Haslerigg marched from Newcastle against him, stormed the fort, took Lilburn, cut off his head, and hoisted it on a pole as a lesson to other governors. In the period of the great French war, and during the menaces of invasion, the castle and the whole promontory on which the priory stands were treated by the military engineers in a manner that, however it might contribute to the safety of the coast, was greatly at the cost of the remains of the priory."

What the priory was in its best days may be seen from a "platte," or plan, of the peninsula on which it stands, made in the time of Queen Elizabeth, and yet preserved in the Cottonian Manuscript, Augustus I., vol. ii., art 6. From this we learn that, "entering from Tinmouth town, over a wide moat and drawbridge, stood the Ward House, with what was called the 'Utter Forte' to the right; a neck of land projecting from which, and rounding off parallel with that part of the peninsula on which the abbey itself stood, formed the 'Priour's Haven.' A little to the left of the drawbridge already mentioned was the 'Gatehouse House,' in the way from which to the 'Great Court,' right and left, were the 'Kylne' and 'Constable Lodgyng,' the 'Back House' and 'Mylne.' To the left, near the brink of the cliff, was the 'Gonner's Lodge' and the 'Pultre Yard;' then the north walk, with two barns, a barn-yard, a garner, three sets of stables, and a cow-house. In the centre of the area which formed the complete site was the 'Abbey Kirke,' to the east of which was the 'Gardyn Place.' The west end of the abbey church, somewhat narrower than the main buildings, as being apparently without aisles, is marked as the 'Parysh Kirke.' North of this, apparently fronting the great court, already named, was the 'Priour's Lodgyng.' The 'Chapter House' and 'Dortoz,'

or dormitory (continuing from which was the edifice named 'Lord's Lodgyng'), adjoined the south side of the choir of the abbey church, forming the east side of the cloister; part of the parish church formed the north, the 'Common Aule' the west, and the 'New Aule' the south sides. South of the common hall were 'Botereye Aule' and 'Ketchyn;' and then the 'Southe Courte,' occupying the remaining space to the cliffs which overlooked the Prior's Haven. North of the buttery hall and kitchen was the 'Ender Courte,' with the 'New Lodgyng' and 'Bruhouse.' The whole precinct of the abbey was surrounded by a strong wall; that part of the site towards Tinmouth, being unprotected by the sea, appears to have been rendered doubly strong by a wall and ditch. Adjoining the ditch to the south-west of the town of Tinmouth were the 'Old Fish Pounds,' now an old dyke."

Thus we have a most complete view of the abbey and castle of Tynemouth, in their full state in the Elizabethan era, with all their appurtenances about them,—granaries, fishponds, everything requisite for them to hold out against a siege, if necessary. At the present moment the place retains some strong features of the olden time. True, the abbey has been assailed by Scotch Covenanters, English Puritans, winds, weather, and those worst of all dilapidators, men who look with covetous eyes on fine old buildings when they want to erect ugly new ones without the trouble of quarrying and squaring. Under all these influences this beautiful abbey has shrunk to a mere fragment; but it is a fragment which shows what the whole must have been, and what churls they must have been who pulled it to pieces to build the present bald Governor's House. Walter White says, with a just indignation:—"From what remains of the ruin, with its tall and graceful arches, some round, some pointed, and all richly red

in colour, we can mentally rebuild the priory, and imagine its former pride and magnificence. Spoliation, more than time, is to blame for the deplorable dilapidation ; and it seems something like a mockery that the authorities should write a warning to the mischievous, while the governor's house still



TYNEMOUTH PRIORY.

stands but a few yards distant, a model of ugliness, built of stone taken from the ancient walls. Looking thereon, you still wonder how the builder could ever convert that which was already beautiful into anything so unsightly. If it is left

standing as a foil to the architectural graces of the ruin, the purpose is fully answered."

The portion of the priory church still remaining is most beautiful. Its arches are for the most part round, but here and there showing the pointed ones, included under a general round arch. There are three tiers of these arches, one above the other: the lower ones very tall and beautifully worked; the second tier of equal grace, but shorter; the upper are greatly dilapidated. A portion of the choir is fitted up as a church; and at the eastern end is St. Oswin's shrine, restored at the expense of the Duke of Northumberland. It has its stained glass windows, and embossed ceiling, and resembles a lovely little oratory. But in strange contrast to it stands, not far off, the modern barracks. The decaying church and the noisy canteen rise side by side. It is an odd medley of the picturesque old and the unpicturesque new. What is most in keeping with the remains of the abbey is a graveyard that lies around it; but this the governor of the castle, or the Board of Ordnance, some years ago endeavoured to shut the inhabitants out from, and to prevent them laying their dead by the side of their ancestors. The spirit of the people, however, broke through this arbitrary attempt. In fact, there is no place more calculated to inspire solemn and elevating ideas than this lofty, airy promontory, amid the evidences of present human activity and the slumbers of the dead. The sea dashes on the perpendicular cliffs far below you, and roars amid huge blocks of stone fallen from them; whilst the eye roves far over the ocean, beholding busy steamers, gleaming sails, and, along the sands, fishermen and strolling people, children at play, and nets drying.

Stephen Oliver, the younger, in his "Rambles in Northum-

berland," says, "To behold a storm at sea, a more likely situation could scarcely be pointed out than Tynemouth Castle-yard; for the sea, during a gale of wind from the eastward, breaks with tremendous violence over the rocks at the foot of the cliff by which the castle-yard is bounded; and many a gallant ship is wrecked in such weather; sometimes directly on the rocks below the castle, though more frequently on the Herd Sands to the south, or on the dangerous rock called the Black Middins, to the north of the Tyne." We may suppose the anonymous author of the following stanzas sitting on the edge of the Priory Cliff, musing on such subjects, when he penned them. They relate to the "Morning Star," a vessel from the port of Tyne, which, in 1818, perished in the Cattegat, with all hands.

THE "MORNING STAR."

The "Morning Star"
 Sailed o'er the bar,
 Bound for the Baltic Sea;
 In the morning grey
 She stretched away,
 'T was a weary day to me.

And many an hour
 In fleet and shower,
 By the lighthouse rock I stray,
 And watch till dark
 For the winged bark,
 Of him that's far away.

The castle's bound
 I wander round,
 Among the grassy graves;
 But all I hear
 Is the north wind drear
 And all I see---the waves!

Oh roam not there,
 Thou mourner fair,
 Nor pour the fruitless tear !
 Thy plaint of woe
 Is all too low,
 The dead they cannot hear.

The " Morning Star "

 Is fet afar,
 Set in the Baltic sea ;
 And the billows spread
 O'er the sandy bed
 That holds thy love from thee !

Having said enough of the history of Tynemouth Priory, let us conclude with a sample of its traditions. In an old black-letter pamphlet, we have an account of the " The Monk's Stone, a Goodlye Legend of a Crofs ; shewing how a certayne Monk wandered from his Monaſterie of Tinemouth, and going unto ye Caſtell of Seton De-la-Val, ſtole therefrom a Pigg's Head ; with what befell him on his waie back : newlie written downe by the auſtour from fundrie truthes gotten out of diuerſe bookes and ould writeings, and from ye ſaieings of manie aunciente men and wiues of verie goode report."

The legend is more particularly told afterwards :—" Once upon a time in the days of old, a certain monk of the Priory of Tynemouth, ſtrolling abroad, came unto the Caſtle of Seton De-la-Val, whoſe lord was a-hunting, but expected home anon. Among the many diſhes preparing in the kitchen was a pig, ordered expreſſly for the lord's own eating. This alone ſuiting the liquoriſh palate of the monk, and though admoniſhed and informed for whom it was intended, he cut off the head, reckoned by epicures the moſt favoury part of the creature, and, putting it into his bag, made the beſt of his way towards the monaſtery. A while after, De-la-Val and his fellows returned from the chaſe, and being informed of the theft, which

he looked upon as a personal insult, he remounted his horse, and set out in pursuit of the offender, and by dint of hard riding overtook him about a mile east of Preston ; and so belaboured him with his staff, called a hunting-gad, that he was hardly able to crawl to his cell. This monk dying within a year and a day,—although, as the story goes, the beating was not the cause of his death,—his brethren made it a handle to charge De-la-Val with his murder : who, before he could get him absolved, was obliged to make over to the monastery, as an expiation of the deed, the Manor of Elfig, hard by Newcastle, with divers other valuable estates ; and by way of amends to set up a monument on the spot, where he had so properly chastised the gluttonous monk ; inscribing thereon :—

O horror, to kill a man for a Pigg's Head."

That is the main tradition ; but there are others, and one is that De-la-Val was conveyed to York, tried, and pardoned by the Crown ; and that the monks, chagrined at the result of the affair, erected this stone with its inscription, to give vent to their mortification. But the fact is, that the stone,—a part of which yet remains in a field, a little to the north-east of Tynemouth, and in the immediate vicinity of the farmstead of Monkhouse,—was an ancient cross, called the Seton Cross. It is mentioned in various ancient writings from the eleventh to the fourteenth century, and always called the Rood, or Cross, and as standing on Rodeftane Moor. It is supposed to have stood at the boundary of the Seton estate, and on a road proceeding directly from Seton to Tynemouth, of which traces are yet visible. When Grose visited it, this stone was broken, part of it lying on the ground, and a gentleman told him he remembered it ten feet high. He gives a drawing of it, full of carved figures, and evidencing that it had been originally a

very elaborately executed cross. After his time, a farmer dragged the broken part away, and then pulled up the remaining pedestal, because people trod down his crops by resorting to it. It was put down again, but again shifted repeatedly; the last and fourth time, because it was in the way of a farm outhouse about to be built. It was then set down in its present situation. The upper part was afterwards found built into the wall of the barn of the same farmhouse.

The most probable tradition is that the monk was near this cross when the angry knight overtook him, and fled to it for sanctuary; to which the assailant, in his wrath, paid no regard; and that, in record of the offence, the monks had carved on the pedestal the following rhyme, more ancient than the prose inscription already given:—

O horrid dede
To kill a man for a pig's hede !

The subject has furnished ballad and story. In one long ballad, which has been modernized and reprinted in the "London University Magazine," in the "Story Teller," and by Hone, Sir Delaval, as he is called, is made to go to the Crusades before he could feel "all right" after the penance and the loss of his estates. On his return, the ballad thus concludes:—

Once more is merrie the border land—
Hark ! through the midnight gale
The bagpipes again play a wassail strain,
Round flies the joyous tale;
Many a joke of the friar's poke
Is passed o'er hill and dale.

The Lady Delaval once more smiled,
And sang to her wean on her knee,
And prayed her knight in fond delight
While he held her lovinglie;

Nor grieved he more of his dolours fore
Though stripped of land and fee.

At Warkworth Castle, which proudly looks
O'er the stormy northern main,
The Percy greeted the Border knight,
With his merriest minstrel strain,
Thronged was the hall with nobles all
To welcome the knight again.

Now at this day while years roll on,
And the knight doth coldly lie,
A stone doth stand on the silent land,
To tellen the strangers nigh,
That a horrid dede for a pig his hede,
Did thence to heavenward cry



Whitby Abbey.

If e'er to Whitby's silver strand
Thy pilgrim steps have strayed ;
Descended Hakenefs' valleys deep,
Or roved through Eskdale's shade ;
Then sure thy weary feet have toiled
The steep ascent to gain,
Where holy Hilda's mouldering pile
O'erhangs the foaming main.

BALLAD OF ST. HILDA.



NE of the most striking objects on the coast of Yorkshire is the ruined abbey of Whitby. From its elevation, and its overlooking the sea-cliffs, it is an object seen far out at sea, and up and down the coast. Exposed as is the lofty site of the abbey ruins, the neighbourhood of Whitby itself has many beauties. The town lies deep below the abbey, and the church near it, in the vale of the Esk, the river running through it, and its houses climbing in clustered confusion, one above another, up the steep hill-sides to a great height. In fact, a flight of nearly two hundred steps has to be ascended to reach the church from the level of the river ; but above them the view is very animated, of the river expanding deep below, between the busy wharves, and the ships passing in and out between the mossy headlands that restrain the billows of the stormy sea. Near the church stand the remains of the abbey,



WHITBY ABBEY.

being enclosed in private grounds, but admitting free access to the public.

In Dugdale's time a great part of the central tower was standing; but the last portion of this fell in 1830, and now lies a heap of grass-grown ruins. But still the main walls of the church, with their triple heights of finely-carved windows, and its richly-clustered columns, remain to delight the eye with their grace and loftiness. Most of these arches are pointed, showing a much more recent origin than the earliest structure of the abbey; but there are still round arches that bear testimony to a much higher antiquity.

This monastery is said to have been first erected by St. Hilda, the abbess of Heruten, now Hartlepool, in consequence of a vow made by her, and on ground granted by Oswy, King of Northumberland. This took place in 657; and Ælfleda, a daughter of Oswy, became a nun in the establishment, and succeeded as abbess on Hilda's decease, which occurred in 680. The monastery was for both men and women. The name of the place in the Saxon times was Streoneshall, meaning the bay of a watch-tower; but on the invasion of the Danes it obtained the name of Vitby, or the White Town; now slightly changed into Whitby.

The main event which distinguished the rule of St. Hilda was one to which we have already several times alluded,—the council which was held here in 664 to settle the question of the true time of keeping Easter, and, in fact, the supremacy of the British or the Roman Church in these islands. Henry, in his excellent “History of England” (vol. iii., p. 203), gives the following account of this most important event:—“It appears that the English in the kingdoms of Kent and Wessex were converted to and instructed in the Christian religion by missionaries from Rome and France, whilst those of Mercia and Northumberland received the light of the Gospel from preachers of the Scotch nation. All these different teachers established the rites and usages of the church from whence they came in those which they planted; which gave rise to many controversies between the English churches in the south and those in the north, about their respective customs, particularly about the time of keeping Easter, and the form of the ecclesiastical tonsure. The churches planted by the Roman missionaries kept Easter on the first Sunday after the fourteenth and before the twenty-second day of the first month after the vernal equinox, and those planted by the Scotch kept that festival on the first

Sunday after the thirteenth and before the twenty-first day of the same moon. By this means, when the fourteenth day of that moon happened to be a Sunday, those of the Scotch communion celebrated the feast of Easter on that day, whereas those of the Roman communion did not celebrate theirs till the Sunday after. The Romish clergy in the south of England, animated with the haughty, intolerant spirit of the church from whence they came, were not contented with enjoying their own customs in peace, but laboured with much violence to impose them upon the Britons, Scots, and northern English, who were all abundantly tenacious of their own usages. At length a famous council was summoned by Oswy, King of Northumberland, at Whitby, in Yorkshire (A.D. 644), to determine this mighty controversy; which occasioned no little confusion in his own family,—his queen and son following the Roman ritual, while he observed the Scotch. The principal champions on the Roman side at this council were Agelbert, Bishop of the West Saxons, with Agatho, James, Romanus, and Wilfrid, priests; while Colman, Bishop of Lindisfarne, with some of his clergy, managed the argument on the other side. The Scotch orators maintained that their manner of celebrating Easter was prescribed by St. John, the beloved disciple; and the Romanists affirmed, with equal confidence, that theirs was instituted by St. Peter, the prince of the apostles, and the door-keeper of heaven. Oswy was struck with this last observation; and, both parties acknowledging that Peter kept the keys, the king declared that he was determined not to disoblige this celestial porter upon any account, but to observe all his institutions to the utmost of his power, for fear he should turn his back upon him when he came to the gate of heaven. This sagacious declaration was applauded by the whole assembly, and the Roman orators obtained a com-

plete victory, at which Bishop Colman, and many of his clergy, were so much offended, that they left England and returned to their native country.

St. Hilda, under whose roof this great triumph of Romanism was gained, was a princess of the blood, being the daughter of Hereric, nephew—or, as some say, grandson—of the great Saxon King, Edwin; and was baptized by Paulinus himself, when only fourteen years of age. Her sister Herefuit was abbess of Chelles, in Normandy, in whose convent Hilda spent a year, and then, returning to Northumberland, became abbess of a small nunnery on the river Wear; afterwards of Heruten, or Hartlepool, and, finally, of Whitby. Bede gives us a long account of the death of this famous abbess being seen in a vision by a nun, who also heard the death-bell tolling supernaturally at Hakeness, now Hackness, thirteen miles south of Whitby, and near the shore; and that, when the messengers arrived with the news of her decease on the previous night, they found the nuns saying mass for her soul.

This Hackness was a cell of Whitby. It lies between Whitby and Scarborough, and is now the property of Sir John Vanden Bempde Johnstone, Bart. The old manor house lies in a lovely valley amidst woods, having all the air of a monastic seclusion. It was originally erected, like to many others on this coast, for nuns; but the pirates that infested the seas in the Saxon times rendered it too unsafe for them. We are told, too, in the reign of William Rufus, not only that pirates ravaged this shore, but that thieves and robbers came day and night out of the forests, and carried off all they could lay hands on. In Forge Valley, leading to Hackness from Scarborough, are the remains of a monastic cell, and traces of an iron foundry, as at Rievaulx Abbey, indicating that the monks

were not all “lazy monks,” but looked after the minerals on their estates.

Such was the sanctity of this famous abbess, that tradition relates that the numerous fossils found on that shore, now called ammonites, and which resemble snakes coiled up, but without any heads, were real serpents which infested that neighbourhood, and were thus deprived of their heads, and petrified for ever, at the prayer of the holy abbess. Scott refers gracefully to this, and to other legends of St. Hilda and her convent, in the second canto of *Marmion* :—

Then Whitby nuns, exulting, told,
How to their house three barons bold
Must menial service do ;
While horns blow out a note of shame,
And monks cry “ Fie, upon your name !”
In wrath, for loss of fylvan game,
St. Hilda’s priest ye slew !
This, on Ascension-day each year,
While labouring on our harbour pier,
Must Herbert, Bruce, and Percy hear.
They told how in their convent cell
A Saxon princess once did dwell,
The lovely Edelfled ;
And how, of thousand snakes, each one
Was changed into a coil of stone,
When holy Hilda prayed :
Themselves, within their holy bound,
Their stony folds had often found.
They told how sea-fowls’ pinions fail
As over Whitby’s towers they sail,
And sinking down with flutterings faint,
They do their homage to the faint.

Fossils, in fact, abound in the neighbourhood of Whitby. Walter White, in his “Month in Yorkshire,” says :—“The fossil specimens in the museum of the Literary Society of

Whitby are especially worthy of attention. Side by side with a section of the strata of the coast from Bridlington to Redcar, there is a collection of the fossils therein contained, among which those of the immediate neighbourhood, such as may be called Whitby fossils, occupy the chief place. There are saurians in good preservation, one of which was presented (fold?) to the museum for £150, by the nobleman on whose estate it was found embedded in lias. The number of ammonites of all sizes is surprising. These are the headless snakes of St. Hilda's nuns, and the 'strange frolics of Nature' of philosophers in later days, who held that she formed them for 'diversion after a toilsome application to business.' Perhaps it is to some superstitious notion connected with the snake-stones that the town owes the three ammonites in its coat of arms. In all, the fossil specimens in the museum now amount to nearly nine thousand."

The tradition regarding the birds is thus mentioned by Camden: "It is also ascribed to the power of her sanctity, that those wild geese, which in the winter fly in great flocks to the lakes and rivers unfrozen in the southern parts, to the great amazement of every one, fall down suddenly upon the ground, when they are in their flight over certain neighbouring fields hereabouts; a relation I should not have made, if I had not received it from several credible men. But those who are less inclined to heed superstition, attribute it to some occult quality in the ground, and to somewhat of antipathy between it and the geese, such as they say is between wolves and scylla roots; for that such hidden tendencies and aversions, as we call sympathies and antipathies, are implanted in many things by provident nature for the preservation of them, is a thing so evident, that every body grants it." Mr. Charlton, in his History of Whitby, attributes this effect to the number of sea-

gulls that, when flying from a storm, often alight near Whitby; and from the woodcocks, and other birds of passage, who do the same on their arrival on shore after a long flight.

The statement of the menial service done by the descendants of those baronial houses to the abbesses of Whitby is very curious, and is quoted by Scott in his notes to "Marmion," as thus given in "The True Account," printed and circulated at Whitby:—"In the fifth year of the reign of Henry II., after the conquest of England by William, Duke of Normandy, the lord of Uglebarnby, then called William de Bruce; the lord of Smeaton, called Ralph de Percy; with a gentleman and a freeholder named Allatson, did, on the 16th of October, 1159, appoint to meet and hunt the wild boar, in a certain wood or desert place belonging to the Abbot of Whitby; the place's name was Eskdale-side, and the abbot's name was Sedman. Then, these young gentlemen having met, with their hounds and boar-staves, in the place above-mentioned, and there having found a great wild boar, the hounds ran him well near about the chapel and hermitage of Eskdale-side, where was a monk of Whitby, who was a hermit. The boar, being sorely pursued, and dead-run, took in at the chapel door, there laid him down, and presently died. The hermit shut the hounds out of the chapel, and kept himself in at his meditations and prayers, the hounds standing at bay without. The gentlemen, in the thick of the wood, being just behind their game, followed the cry of their hounds, and so came to the hermitage, calling on the hermit, who opened the door, and came forth, and within they found the boar lying dead; for which the gentlemen, in a fit of great fury, because the hounds were put from their game, did most violently and cruelly run at the hermit with their boar-staves, whereby he soon after died. Thereupon, the gentlemen, perceiving and knowing that

they were in peril of death, took sanctuary at Scarborough. But at that time the abbot, being in very great favour with the king, removed them out of the sanctuary, whereby they were in danger of the law, and not to be privileged, but likely to have the severity of the law, which was death for death. But the hermit being a holy and devout man, and at the point of death, sent for the abbot, and desired him to send for the gentlemen who had wounded him. The abbot so doing, the gentlemen came; and the hermit, being very sick and weak, said unto them, 'I am sure to die of those wounds you have given me.' The abbot answered, 'They shall as surely die for the same.' But the hermit answered, 'Not so; for I will freely forgive them my death, if they will be content to be enjoined the penance I shall lay on them for the safeguard of their souls.' The gentlemen, being present, bade him save their lives. Then said the hermit, 'You and yours shall hold your lands of the abbot of Whitby, and his successors, in this manner: that, upon Ascension-day, you, or some of you, shall come to the wood of the Stray-heads, which is in Eskdale-side, the same day at sun-rising, and there shall the abbot's officer blow his horn, to the intent that you may know where to find him, and he shall deliver unto you, William de Bruce, ten stakes, eleven trout flowers, and eleven yethers, to be cut by you, or some of you, with a knife of one penny price; and you, Ralph de Percy, shall take twenty-one of each sort, to be cut in the same manner; and you, Allatson, shall take nine of each sort, to be cut as aforesaid, and to be taken on your backs, and carried to the town of Whitby, and to be there before nine of the clock the same day before mentioned. At the same hour of nine of the clock, if it be full sea, your labour and service shall cease; and if low water, each of you shall set your stakes to the brim, each stake one yard from the other, and so yether

them on each side with your yethers; and so stake on each side with your strout flowers, that they may stand three tides, without removing by the force thereof. Each of you shall do, make, and execute the said service, at that very hour, every year, except it be full sea at that hour; but when it shall so fall out this service shall cease. You shall faithfully do this, in remembrance that you did most cruelly slay me; and that you may the better call to God for mercy, repent unfeignedly of your sins, and do good works. The officer of Eskdale-side shall blow *Out on you! Out on you! Out on you!* for this heinous crime. If you, or your successors, shall refuse this service, so long as it shall not be full sea at the aforesaid hour, you, or yours, shall forfeit your lands to the Abbot of Whitby, or his successors. This I entreat, and earnestly beg, that you may have your lives and goods preserved for this service; and I request of you to promise, by your parts in heaven, that it shall be done by you, and your successors, as is aforesaid requested; and I will confirm it by the faith of an honest man.' Then the hermit said, 'My soul longeth for the Lord; and I do as freely forgive these men my death, as Christ forgave the thieves on the cross.' And in the presence of the abbot and the rest, he said, moreover, these words: 'In manus tuas, Domine, commendo spiritum meum, a vinculis enim mortis redemisti me, Domine veritatis. Amen.' So he yielded up the ghost the 8th day of December, Anno Domini, 1159, whose soul God have mercy upon. Amen.

"This service," it is added, "still continues to be performed with the prescribed ceremonies, though not by the proprietors in person. Part of the lands charged therewith are now held by a gentleman of the name of Herbert."

This incident is very illustrative of the avidity and dexterity with which the Church, in the good old Roman times, seized

on any circumstance by which to lay the great feudal lords and their property under its power. These three young sprigs of aristocracy little dreamed, we may be well assured, that in their fury over their game—a fury almost equalling that of the game fanatics of the present day—they were attacking a member of the powerful abbey of Whitby in the person of the poor hermit. The hermit lived, it appears, from the 16th of October to the 8th of December; that is, fifty-three days, or a month and more than three weeks. During this time the abbot and abbess of Whitby had had plenty of leisure to plan the penance of these youngsters. This was nothing less than the rendering themselves for ever vassals of the monastery of Whitby, and bound to their good behaviour to all generations. Piously as the hermit expressed himself, the completeness of the deed, as taken down from his utterance, shows how much design and deep policy lay under these words of forgiveness. It was well that in such times there was a power which could hold in check the otherwise lawless barons; but the restraining power in time needed restraint itself, and, not acknowledging it, fell and passed away.

It may seem strange that the abbot of Whitby is mentioned in the case alone, and not the abbess. The following passage will explain this:—"The abbey of Whitby, in the Archdeaconry of Cleveland, on the coast of Yorkshire, founded by Oswy, king of Northumberland, contained both monks and nuns of the Benedictine order; but, contrary to what was usual in such establishments, the abbess was superior to the abbot." We may suppose that, in such cases as the one above, the abbot came forward rather than the abbess, as more fitted for such worldly work; and it would appear that the male element, as is usually the case, got the upper hand eventually, for there were no nuns in Whitby Abbey in Henry VIII.'s time,

nor had been for long before that period. The ceremony of the service done by the descendants of these wild hunters was called Horngarth, from the blowing of the horn.

The Norwegians landed and plundered Whitby in the twelfth century, in the time of Richard, who had been prior of Peterborough, and who died in 1175. When the abbey was surrendered in Henry VIII.'s time, its gross annual rental amounted to £505, some shillings, so that it had become very rich ; and, indeed, the enumeration of the places in its possession show its great wealth and power. They may be seen in Dugdale. The landed property at Whitby, and the site of the abbey, were granted to Sir Richard Chomley, Knt., and in Dugdale's time remained in that family, and, in fact, do so still.

Charlton says :—" Amongst others, Whitby Abbey, after being plundered of the wood, the timber and lead on its roof, as also of its bells, and everything else belonging thereto that could be sold, was left standing with its stone walls, a mere skeleton of what it had formerly been." The cells, or houses subordinate to this abbey, were Hackness, in Whitby Strand ; Middlesburgh, the church of All Saints in Fishergate at York ; and Godeland, or Gotheland ; besides several hermitages. The abbot of Whitby was one of those abbots who were considered spiritual barons, but did not sit in Parliament.

The person of most literary distinction amongst the monks of Whitby was Caedmon, the Anglo-Saxon poet, to whom, Bede informs us, the most sublime strains of poetry were so natural that he dreamed in verse, and composed the most admirable poems in his sleep, which he repeated as soon as he awoke. A specimen of his work, "The Origin of Things," is preserved in Alfred's translation of Bede's Ecclesiastical History, and is supposed to be the oldest specimen of the Saxon now remaining. It may interest the reader to see what was the

language spoken and written in this country about A.D. 670, and therefore we present this fragment with a literal translation of it in parallel columns :—

Nu we sceolan herian	Now must we praise
Heofon-rices weard.	The guardian of heaven's kingdom.
Metodes mihte,	The Creator's might,
And his mod-geþhne.	And his mind's thought.
Wera wuldor-fæder !	Glorious Father of Man !
Swa he wundra gehwæs,	As of every wonder he,
Ece drihten,	Lord Eternal,
Oord onstealde.	From the beginning.
He ærest gefceop	He first framed
Eorþan bearnum	For the children of earth
Heofon to hrofe,	The heaven as a roof,
Halig fcyppend !	The holy Creator !
Tha Middangeard,	Then mid-earth,
Moncynnes weard,	The Guardian of Mankind,
Ece dryhten,	The Eternal Lord,
Æfter teode,	Afterwards produced,
Firum foldan,	The earth for men,
Frea aelmitig.	Lord Almighty.

The fame of St. Hilda was very great all over the north of England in Catholic times ; and not only was there a full belief in her headless snakes,—

How sole amid the serpent tribe
 The holy abbess stood,
 With fervent faith, and up-lift hands
 Grasping the holy rod ;

The suppliant's prayer and powerful charm,
 The unnumbered reptiles own ;
 Each, falling from the cliff, becomes
 A headless coil of stone ;

and likewise

How, when above the oriel arch
 The screaming sea-fowl soared,
 Their drooping pinions conscious fell,
 And the virgin faint adored ;

but Charlton, in his history of Whitby, says : —“ I shall produce one instance more of the great veneration paid to Lady Hilda, which prevails even in our days ; and that is the constant opinion that she rendered, and still renders, herself visible, on some occasions, in the Abbey of Streoneshall, or Whitby, where she long resided. At a particular time of the year, namely, in the summer months, at ten or eleven in the forenoon, the sunbeams fall in the inside of the northern part of the choir ; and it is then that the spectators, who stand on the west side of Whitby churchyard, so as just to see the most northerly part of the abbey, past the north end of Whitby church, imagine that they perceive, in one of the highest windows, the resemblance of a woman arrayed in a shroud. Though we are certain that this is only a reflection caused by the splendour of the sunbeams, yet fame reports it, and it is constantly believed among the vulgar, to be an appearance of Lady Hilda in her shroud, or, rather, in a glorified state ; before which, I make no doubt, the Papists, even in these our days, offer up their prayers with as much zeal and devotion as before any other image of their glorified saint.”



Netley Abbey.



LEASURE tourists crossing from Southampton to Cowes in the Isle of Wight, have often admired the woods of Netley on their hanging shore, with here and there a summit of broken wall peering through the noble trees. The situation on the banks of Southampton Water, about three miles from that town, and near a part of the New Forest, is particularly charming, and has often drawn the foot of the lover of nature or of art to a nearer inspection of it. The beauty of the place is by no means diminished by this approximation. There is a forest air about it still ; the trees are wonderfully lofty and fine, and many of them have sprung up in the interior of the once fair building, whilst masses of luxuriant ivy clamber the lofty walls, and depend in rich prodigality from their crumbling summits, adding a fuller grace to the scene. The visitor, seated on a fallen stone, still feels a forest silence around him ; and the neighbourhood of the Southampton Water seems to complete the feeling of the monastic tranquillity which for ages brooded over the spot. Mr. Moile, in his “ State Trials,” has infused this feeling livingly, bringing into the picture the monks of Binstead, also, in the Isle of Wight, opposite,—

In Netley Abbey,—on the neighbouring isle
The woods of Binstead shroud as fair a pile ;—
Where sloping meadows fringe the shore with green,
A river of the ocean rolls between,



NETLEY ABBEY: EAST WINDOW.

Whose murmurs, borne on sunny winds, disport
 Through oriel windows and a cloistered court ;
 O'er hills so fair, o'er terraces so sweet,
 The sea comes twice a-day to kiss their feet ;
 Where sounding caverns mine the garden bowers,
 Where groves intone, where many an ilex towers,
 And many a fragrant breath exhales from fruit and flowers ;
 And lowing herds and feathered warblers there
 Make mystic concords with repose and prayer ;
 Mixed with the hum of apiaries near,
 The mill's far cataract and the sea-boy's cheer ;
 Whose oars beat time to litanies at noon,

Or hymns at compline by the rising moon ;
 Where, after chimes, each chapel echoes round
 Like one ærial instrument of sound,
 Some vast, harmonious fabric of the Lord's.

Netley Abbey, however, has little besides its present beauty to interest the imagination. No striking histories present themselves in its annals ; in fact, its annals are lost ; no register of the abbey is known to exist. In this respect, the glorious old Abbey of Beaulieu, whence its monks originally came, has much the advantage over it. There sudden offshoots from the secular world's convulsions, ever and anon suddenly broke its religious repose, and called in the monks to administer consolation to the glittering but less happy beings of the political spheres of existence. There came the brave but unfortunate Margaret of Anjou, seeking refuge ; there the bold impostor, Perkin Warbeck, made a passing retreat. Netley, situated nearer to the coast, would have seemed more exposed to such visitations ; but it appears singularly to have escaped, and to have slumbered on in a dream-like, poetical quiet, through its days of prosperity.

Its present remains show plainly its date. Its light and lofty arches and pointed windows are of the early English order, according with the date of its foundation in 1239, by Henry III., who dedicated it to the Virgin Mary and St. Edward. Some authors have doubted its foundation by Henry ; but the charter of the third Henry, given in Dugdale, sufficiently attests its foundation by him, and this is confirmed by the annals of Waverley and Parcolude. It was anciently called variously Netley, Nethley, Letteley, Edwardstow, or De Loco Sancti Edwardi. The name has been traced to *de laeto loco*, from its pleasant situation, and again from Natan-leaga, or Leas of Naté, a wooded district extending from the Avon to

the Test and Itchin. John, Earl of Warren, one of the great patrons of Castleacre, in Norfolk, also confirmed to Netley the manor of Schire, near Guildford, in Surrey, which had been given to the monks by Roger de Clerc, in the year 1252. For a long time its revenues continued very small. It was, however, afterwards better endowed by Edmund Earl of Cornwall, Robert de Ver, and Walter de Burg, the last of whom conferred on it lands in Lincolnshire. But, at the dissolution, its gross revenue only amounted to £160 2s. 9½d, and its clear revenue to £100 12s. 8d.

The destruction of the abbey, according to Willis Brown, commenced about the period when it was inhabited by the Earl of Huntingdon. This was after it had passed from the family of Sir William Paulet, to whom it had been granted by Henry VIII., and afterwards from that of the Earl of Hertford. The Earl of Huntingdon,—or Sir Bartlet Lucy, as asserted by others,—sold the materials to a builder of Southampton, soon after the beginning of the eighteenth century; but an accident which happened to Mr. Taylor, the builder, saved the edifice, or rather the present ruins of it. The account of the accident is this. Sir Bartlet Lucy, who had become the possessor of the Abbey in 1700, sold the materials of the great church to a builder of Southampton, of the name of Taylor. After Taylor had concluded his contract with Sir Bartlet, some of his friends warned him against touching the remains of the abbey, saying that they would themselves never be concerned in the demolition of holy and consecrated places. Their remarks made a deep impression on Taylor; who also dreamt that, in taking down the roof of the church, the keystone of the arch above the east window fell from its place and killed him. He told his dream to Mr. Watts, a schoolmaster in Southampton, the father of Dr. Isaac Watts, who gave him the somewhat

Jesuitical advice to have no personal concern in pulling down the building. This advice Taylor did not follow, and his skull, it is said, was actually fractured by a stone which fell from the east window. The accident had the good effect of staying the demolition of the abbey, which has since been uninjured except by time and tourists. The remains are now the property of T. Chamberlayne, Esq., of Cranbury Park.

The principal remains of Netley Abbey are the chapel, a crypt, popularly called the Abbot's kitchen, the chapter-house, and the refectory. The chapel was in the form of a cross; the southern transept and the choir are the most perfect portions; the northern transept has been destroyed, and many parts are much mutilated. The roof of the whole has fallen in, and most of the windows have lost their tracery. The length of the chapel, when entire, was about 200 feet; the breadth 60 feet, and at the transepts, 120 feet. The crypt is a curious vaulted apartment, 48 feet long by 18 feet broad. The precinct was surrounded by a moat. The south gateway opens into the fountain, or cloister court, round which the various monastic buildings were arranged. On the north side of the court was the church; on the west the kitchen, refectory, and chapter-house; and on the east the abbot's house and garden. Traces of the ancient cloisters may be seen in the court, especially on the south and west sides. A turret at the south corner of the south transept is said to have served for a landmark. A portion of the walls of the domestic buildings is of brick; and if these be the original walls, they are probably the earliest post-Roman example of the use of brick in England. The first large building constructed entirely of brick is Hurstmonceaux Castle in Sussex. The portion of the abbey on the eastern side of the cloister court is still enclosed within ancient walls.

The ruins of the abbot's house adjoin ; and beyond the traces of the moat eastward are the hollows of two large fish-ponds.

Horace Walpole, in his days of Gothic enthusiasm, was enchanted with Netley, and seems to have contemplated restoring at least enough of it for a house. What an escape it had of being



NETLEY ABBEY : WEST FRONT.

Strawberry-hilled ! He wrote to Bentley :—" Shall I describe Netley to you ? I can only by telling you it is the spot in the world which I and Mr. Chute wish. The ruins are vast, and retain fragments of beautiful fretted roof, pendent in

the air, with all variety of Gothic patterns of windows, wrapped round and round with ivy. Many trees are sprouted up among the walls, and only want to be *increased with cypresses!* A hill rises above the abbey, encircled with wood. The fort, in which we would build a tower for habitation, remains, with two small platforms. This little castle is buried from the abbey in a wood, in the very centre, on the edge of the hill. On each side breaks in the view of the Southampton Sea, deep blue, glittering with silver and vessels; on one side terminated by Southampton, on the other by Calshot Castle; and the Isle of Wight rising above the opposite hills. In short, they are not the ruins of Netley, but of Paradise. Oh, the purple abbots! what a spot had they chosen to slumber in! The scene is so beautifully tranquil, yet so lively, that they seem only to have retired *into* the world."

The visitors and tourists of to-day are just as much charmed with the ruins of Netley as the monks and Walpole were. They crowd there in summer to picnic amongst the ruined walls and lofty trees, and are not always careful to avoid defecrating these delightful spots with their relics of greasy paper, and of shrimps and sardine boxes. But the grounds are carefully kept, and these unsightly objects are daily removed, to be only in fine weather daily left again; a strange defecration that one would think every lover of the picturesque would feel instinctively aware of.

A military hospital has been erected in the immediate neighbourhood of the ruins; an intrusion which for its object might have been tolerated had its site been healthy, which is denied by many medical men; neither did the Queen, on her recent visit, find all the arrangements there entirely to her satisfaction. These may be readily remedied, whatever the sanitary conditions of the site may be. The *castle* which Walpole

mentioned at Netley is one of the many small forts built by Henry VIII. for the protection of the southern coast. Calshot Castle, at the mouth of the Southampton Water, on the opposite coast, is another of them, and both of these are now inhabited.



Hurstmonceaux Castle.



URSTMONCEUX CASTLE is remarkable as being a castle built of brick, and perhaps one of the oldest buildings of that material in the kingdom, except such as are of Roman origin. It was built in the reign of Henry VI., but, as is supposed, on the site of a manor-house which had existed there from very early times. The estate fell into the hands of a Norman lord at the Conquest; and in the “*Magna Britannia*” we have this history of it and its possessors:—“Hurstmonceaux, a village situate among the woods, being from its woody situation called at first *Herft*; for the Saxons called a wood *Hyrft*. This place, soon after the coming in of the Normans, was the seat of a family of gentlemen who took their name from the place, and were called *de Hurft* for some successions, till William, the son of Walleran *de Hurft*, for what reason is not known, took the name of *Monceaux*, which was at length annexed, for distinction’s sake, to the village itself, and so it hath been long called *Hurft-Monceaux*. John *de Fiennes*, male issue failing in this family of *Monceaux*, married the female heir, who brought this manor and several other estates of her ancestors into his family, and their heir Robert inherited them. Roger, the great-grandson of John, made the manor-house here his seat, and obtained a license of

King Henry VI. to make a castle of it, and enlarge his park there with 600 acres of land, and left it at his death to his son Richard de Fiennes, Fenes, Fienes, or Fienles.

“These Fiennes were descended from Ingelram de Fienes, who took to wife Sibilde de Tyngrie, daughter of the heir of Pharamuse de Boloigne, who was descended from the earls of Bologne, and nephew to Maud, the wife of King Stephen. Richard de Fiennes above mentioned, being thus nobly descended, was knighted and made the chamberlain to King Edward IV., and having before married Joan, the daughter and sole heir of Thomas Lord Dacre, was by reason thereof created by letters patent, 37 Hen. VI., accepted, declared and summoned to Parliament as a baron of this realm, under the name and title of Lord Dacre. But this lord did not enjoy his inheritance without disturbance for some time; for Humphrey Dacre, second son of Thomas Lord Dacre, sued this lord for some part of his lands and the honour itself; but King Edward IV., who was chosen honorary arbitrator between them, having heard their several pleas, confirmed the honour and estate to him, the said Richard, Joan his wife, and the heirs of their bodies lawfully begotten, because she was the next and right heir of Thomas Lord Dacre above-mentioned. And so the family of Fiennes continued Lords Dacre as long as male issue in their direct line continued, as we shall show anon.

“Richard de Fiennes, the first Lord Dacre, having been made Constable of the Tower, one of King Edward IV.’s Privy Council, and attended the Parliament as a baron from 38 Hen. VI., to 22 Edw. IV., departed this life 2 Rich. III., in possession of this manor, and was buried in the parish church there, dedicated to All-Saints, as was Joan his wife, who died 1 Hen. VII., and were succeeded by their son and heir, Thomas de Fiennes. He was a stout defender of the Lancastrian title

in King Henry's reign, both against the Cornishmen and Scots, and having been summoned to Parliament from 11 Hen. VII., to 21 Hen. VIII., died in the same reign, and was buried in this parish church, on the north side of the high altar, appointing by his testament that a tomb should be made there for him, and our Lord's sepulchre placed thereon, with tapers of ten pounds weight burning about it, and that an honest priest should sing for his soul seven years, and have yearly twelve marks sterling for his salary, and to find bread for the sacrament, wine and wax. This family of Fenys failed, 36 Elizabeth, in the issue male, and Margaret, sister of Gregory Fenys, married to Sampson Leonard, Esq., carried their estate and honour to his family, which thereupon became Lords Dacre, whose son Richard succeeded him, and died in this place. His grandson, Thomas, was created Earl of Suffex, 26 Car. II."

In this extract the reader has a fine example of the thoroughly unsettled manner of spelling till of late years, especially in proper names. Thus we have Hurst spelled Herst and Hyrst; Bologne spelled Bologne and Boloigne; and Fiennes spelled Fiennes, Fenes, Fienes, Fienles, and Fenys.

Since the Leonards, Lords Dacre, Hurstmonceux has passed into the hands of the families of Hare, Naylor, Kemp, and Curteis. George Naylor purchased the estate in 1701 for £38,215. It remained in his family for about a century, and was then purchased by Francis Hare Naylor, Esq., M.P., for £60,000. Towards the end of 1777, the castle being submitted to the examination of Wyatt, the architect, he represented it as so much out of repair that it would be better to quit it, and build a new house out of the materials. The thing was done, and the present Monceux Place was enlarged out of it. We can imagine an architect of Wyatt's taste, or rather want of it, being delighted to pull to pieces the only

specimen of a brick castle in England, and to erect a Wyattville villa out of it. The only wonder is that he did not pull the whole down ; but it may be supposed that some little possession of taste in the proprietors prevented the utter destruction of this unique fabric.

The shell of the castle is still finely mantled with ivy, long, no doubt, to remain a monument of Wyatt Vandalism. Not only has the building been ravaged, but those fine woods around, which Horace Walpole noticed with so much admiration, have been for the most part felled. Still the situation, though low, is very pleasant. As you approach the main



HURSTMONCEUX CASTLE.

gateway to the south, you are struck by its bold and impressive aspect. Above it are the arms of the Fiennes, with their supporters, the alaune, or wolf-dog. The flanking towers are 84 feet high, and are capped with watch-turrets, from which there is a good view of the sea, at a few miles distance ; for the castle overlooks the bay of Pevensey, and presents a full sight of Beachy Head.

Passing over a wooden bridge, where the drawbridge still remained in Walpole's time, you find the castle enclosing three courts, the main one and two lesser ones. In the courts still lie great piles of brickwork, either the refuse of what was selected for Hurstmonceux Place, or what was superfluous for it ; and in spring-time the ground is thickly strewn with blue violets, and the air perfumed by them. Huge trunks of ivy ascend the walls of the rooms, and clothe in luxuriant masses the roofless battlements. Hazel-bushes have also sprung up in the courts, and the wallflower has asserted its ancient right to the desolated residences of great men. Thick moss has carpeted the floors since men have removed their rushes and carpets, and nature altogether has done her best to reconquer the place from the defecations of a Wyatt.

The south and north fronts of the castle measured 206 feet, and the east and west ones 214 feet. The Green Court was the first entered, and beyond it was the Great Hall, which had one of the old baronial central fire-places. This hall had no upper story, so that the smoke could pass out at the roof. This was the case also with the kitchen, of which the great oven of the bakehouse yet remains, being 14 feet in diameter. Walpole found the small chapel in the south-east front still retaining some of its stained glass ; but much of it had been removed to very odd places, and he says he found " St. Catherine and another gentlewoman with a church in her hand exiled into the buttery."

The *alaunes* of the *Fiennes* figured in most of the windows of the castle, and the walls at the demolition continued internally of bare brick. No doubt, they had been hung with tapestry, and therefore had not been plastered; "that age," says Walpole, "not having arrived at the luxury of whitewash." But when tapestry ceased to hide the brickwork, we have plenty of proof that drawing took its place. Our great families did not sit with bare brick or stone walls. Tapestry, silk, or stucco-work gave a fitting finish to their interiors. Under the tower at the south-east angle was the dungeon; and, when Grosé visited it, there remained a stout stone post for securing chains to. Over the porter's lodge was the room called the "Drummer's Hall," which was said to be haunted by a spirit which occasionally beat a drum at midnight. Addison's comedy of "The Drummer," Walpole says, was suggested by this tradition; but it might have been just as well suggested by the celebrated Drummer of Tedworth, who so long annoyed the family of Mr. Mompeston. The drumming here has been said to have been the work of a gardener, who invented the scheme to allow the midnight visits of smugglers from Pevensey, without fear of intrusion from chicken-hearted coast-guards and revenue officers. Some carvings by Grinlin Gibbons were removed from the castle after Walpole's visit, and are now at Hurstmonceux Place. There are still traces of the moat, and of a large reservoir of water connected with it; and a row of grand old Spanish chestnuts beyond the moat are said to be older than the castle itself.

The visitor should notice the peculiar character of scenery betwixt the castle and the neighbouring coast. The wide, dreary marsh-lands, intersected by reed-grown water-courses, and the yellow lichen colouring the old thorn trees that grow in the moorlands, show the prevalence of damp exhalations.

Hurstonceux Place has nothing to recommend it, not even Wyatt's architecture, which he undoubtedly believed to be much finer than that of the castle. It will give the visitor, however, fine breezy prospects towards Beachy Head; and both the churchyard and the church possess monuments of the Fiennes, and others of interest. Among the memories of the place are, that it was the rectory of Archdeacon Hare; that here his brother, Marcus Hare, spent his youth; and that John Sterling, whose life has been written both by the Archdeacon and Thomas Carlyle, was the Archdeacon's first curate at this place.

But a particular interest attaches to Hurstonceux from its lying just in the neighbourhood where the Norman Conqueror landed, and from which he marched to fight that eventful battle which overthrew the Saxon rule in England, and made the Norman barons lords of England, now for eight hundred years. The Conqueror, who landed at that singular old town, successively inhabited by Britons, Romans, and Saxons, the Anderida of the natives, must have marched very near Hurstonceux on his way to meet Harold at Epiton, from that dynasty-deciding conflict thence called Battle. All that coast, from Pevensey to Hastings, is said to have been covered by the Conqueror's ships, landing troops, and by the troops marching towards that common centre of action. They passed through and over Crowhurst, the very manor of Harold himself; for it appears by the Conqueror's survey that Crowhurst was one of the many lordships which Harold, Earl of Kent, was possessed of, but which, with the throne, were lost to the Conqueror. William, as we suppose, gave this lordship, with divers other estates, to Alan Fergant, Earl of Brittany and Richmond, as a reward for his courage and conduct in the victorious battle by which he, with his assistance, and that of other Normans, won the crown.

Croyland Abbey.



ROYLAND ABBEY—or Crowland Abbey, as it is frequently called—was one of the most wealthy and important monasteries in this country. It had amongst its abbots some very able men, especially the ex-chancellor Turketul, and Ingulphus, the historian of the establishment in the reign of William the Conqueror. These men had a talent for governing and managing, and raised the monastery to a height of great reputation and power.

Croyland was built on a great bog in the fens of the Lincolnshire Holland. It was on an island lying between a number of streams, struggling towards the Wash, between the main streams of the Welland and the Nen. Brompton, in describing the marshland of Croyland, says:—"Est autem palus illa, de qua loquimur, latissima et visu decora, multis fluviis et insulis decurrentibus irrigata, multis lacubus magnis et parvis dilata, multis etiam sylvis insulis florida et amœna, infra quam abbatiæ de Ely, Chateris, Thorneye, et Crouland situantur: sed juxta eam abbatiæ de Burgh et Spaulding, ecclesia sancti Ivonis super vocam fluvium Huntingdon, et ecclesia sancti Egidii super Grentam fluvium Cantabrigiæ statuuntur." It was a vast watery region of streams, lakes, woods, principally, it may be presumed, of alders and willows,

of rank vegetation and wild fowl, with plenty of fat eels. In this tottering and quagmire waste did the Saxon monks lay the foundations of Croyland, Ely, Thorney, Chateris, and Peterborough, having a prophetic sense that, as this unctuous district of fish and frogs, reeds and bulrushes, became drained, it would become eminently rich. Another motive, no doubt, was to avoid the visits of the Danes, who might find such places as Lindisfarne and Whitby, on their solid rocks, more accessible, and might not care to drag their vessels up the sluggish streams of Lincolnshire, or to wade amid its mud after these half-aquatic nests of monks.

It was one of the fancies of these old devotees to select a spot for their religious meditations where nobody else could or would live. In this oozy and flaggy fenland, amid the dark, glossy alder trees, and the whispering of reeds, with the wild duck, the water-hen, and the flitting dragon-fly, a young warrior, of high family connexions, renouncing his military profession, and assuming the ecclesiastical habit, had built his solitary hut, and fought a way to heaven at a distance from the elbowings of man. Guthlac, this soldier no longer of any earthly king, but become the soldier of Christ, and fighting his battles alone with the invisible enemies of man, soon became, however, famous for his sanctity and his prophetic gifts. To him fled Ethelbald, a Saxon earl, and great nephew of Penda, being pursued by his cousin Ceolred, who then governed Mercia. Guthlac not only comforted Ethelbald, but assured him that he would undoubtedly live to wear the crown of Mercia, and that without any trouble, any battle, or any bloodshed. Improbable as this seemed, it all came to pass; and Ethelbald, mindful of his vow to build a monastery on the site of Guthlac's cell if these assurances were verified, proceeded in 716 to fulfil his promise. Guthlac had departed this life; but

he showed Ethelbald that he was equally attentive to this engagement, by appearing to him, and pointing out the exact spot for the erection of the sacred fane. It was just as unlikely a situation for a building as could be imagined. It was a deep and watery swamp; but Ethelbald caused great numbers of the neighbouring alders to be cut down, and driven into the spongy mass. On this was raised a building of wood, but not before hundreds of boat-loads of dry earth had been brought from a distance of nine miles to make a solid surface or floor for the monastery. Ethelbald then sent for Kenulph, a monk of Evesham, and conveyed the island of Croyland to him and his monks for ever, describing all the boundaries in a charter, and giving three hundred pounds down, and a hundred a-year for ten years, towards the erection of the building. When this was finished, the remains of Guthlac were conveyed into the church, and buried with great ceremony near the high altar, where they continued to perform many miracles. At the time of the building of Croyland there were four other hermits inhabiting cells on this marshy island, who were permitted by the abbot Kenulph to finish their days there; and Pega, the sister of Guthlac, was also an anchorite on the island; but she brought to the monastery the sacred treasures possessed by Guthlac, namely, his psalter, and the whip of St. Bartholomew, which figures, along with three knives, in the arms of Croyland still. She brought other relics, and, putting them into the hands of Kenulph, retired to her cell at about two miles distance from the monastery, when, after an abode of two years and three months, she went to Rome and there ended her life.

Notwithstanding the quagmire character of the place, monks flocked to it, and men of substance conferred affluence on it. Kings who, like Ethelbald, in the days of their adversity, had

fought refuge there, gave them gifts and privileges. Witlaf, who had concealed himself there from the pursuit of King Egbert, on becoming king himself, gave a fresh charter to Croyland in 833, and granted the privilege of sanctuary betwixt the five waters of Croyland. He bestowed also on the monastery his coronation robe, to be made into a cope or *cafula* ; a golden veil, embroidered with the Fall of Troy, to be suspended on the walls on the day of his anniversary ; a golden cup with figures of vine-dressers fighting with dragons, called his *crucibolum*, and his drinking horn. In the following reign, however, the brother of Witlaf stripped the monastery of



CROYLAND ABBEY : WESTERN FRONT.

its jewels and gold ; and, in the ninth century, the Danes not only plundered the monastery, and murdered the monks, but burnt down the church, the convent, and its offices.

The monastery continued for a long time in ruins ; but, in 946, as Turketul, the chancellor of King Edred, was on his way into Northumberland to quell a rebellion there, he happened to take his way by Croyland, where he found three old monks who had escaped the massacre of the Danes, and the oppressive hand of King Beorred, who had seized on the sacred lands. These monks had constructed a little oratory within the ruins, where they received the great chancellor in the best manner they could, showed him the relics of St. Guthlac, and related to him the story of their misfortunes. The chancellor was greatly affected by their humble piety, their sorrows, and their hospitality. After putting down the northern rebellion, he again took Croyland in his way, and gave the monks twenty pounds in silver. On his return to court, he extolled everywhere the generous behaviour of the monks in their deep adversity, so that "Croyland courtesy" became a phrase. The king, on hearing of the calamities of Croyland, gave Turketul full license to do whatever he thought necessary for the restoration of the monastery. After this Turketul declared his intention of assuming the cowl and retiring himself to Croyland. The king did all in his power to dissuade him from this design, but, finding it vain, he accompanied him to Croyland. Turketul made over to the king all his manors, which were more than sixty, reserving only every tenth ; and those six manors which lay near Croyland he conferred on the abbey. At this royal visit two of the monks, who had fled to Winchester from the Danes, Bruno and Aio, were recalled. Turketul was appointed abbot. He now liberated the manors of the monastery, which were in debt, and the king gave a

new charter to it. Many learned men followed Turketul to Croyland. The church and monastery were rebuilt about 950; and also a cell at Pegaland dedicated to the virgin, St. Pega, on the east side of the monastery, in which he placed such persons as wished to join the brethren, till they had received fair trial of their characters and progress in piety. Some of these continued seculars, some became priests, others clerks. Turketul, by the aid of Aio, who was an eminent civilian, and Thurgar, who had been at Croyland from his youth, drew up the history of the abbey, from its foundation to the fourteenth year of King Edgar. He then divided the brethren into three different ranks, according to the time they had been in the monastery, assigning them their particular duties. The third and senior class consisted of men who had reached their fiftieth year. They were called *Sempaḱtæ*, or privileged persons, and were exempted from all offices in the house, except by particular command of the abbot. Each had his own chamber, with a junior brother to keep him company, and a clerk or boy to wait on him. There has been much discussion on this word *Sempaḱta*, and Du Cange supposes it to mean, not that these monks were *Sympaḱtæ*, but had *συμπακται*, or junior monks, to attend on them.

Having brought Croyland into admirable order, and made it a model among monasteries, Turketul died at the age of sixty-eight, having been abbot twenty-seven years. Turketul's constitution had suffered much from bodily wounds, received in early life; and thus he reached only a moderate age for an inmate of Croyland; for, contrary as it may seem to our notions of the unhealthiness of low and damp situations, the monks of Croyland frequently attained amazing ages. One of them, Clarenbaldus, was a hundred and sixty-eight at the time of his decease. Swarlingus, another monk, was a

hundred and forty-two; and Turgarus, a third, a hundred and thirteen. Brunus and Aio were very old. On his death-bed Turketul called together the whole of the brethren, and made the steward read to them the exact amount of the property, furniture, and treasures, both in money and relics, of the monastery, that the steward might be answerable for these after his death. The money itself amounted to six thousand pounds. He also warned them expressly and repeatedly to take especial care of their fire. This was afterwards deemed prophetic, for the abbey was burnt down in the time of Ingulphus.

From this period (975) to the Norman Conquest, the fortunes of Croyland were various, sometimes receiving rich benefactions, sometimes stripped by the Danes under Turkel, Swane, and others. With the Conquest came a severe trial to the monks. Wulketul was then abbot; and Ivo Tailbois, the Norman, married the sister of the Saxon earls Edwin and Morcar, became the lord of Hoyland, or Holland, ravaged the lands of the monks, and maimed their cattle. His malevolence was inflamed by the honour paid by the brethren of Croyland to the name and remains of the great Saxon earl, Waltheof, who had been a great benefactor to them. Wulketul irritated Tailbois still more by publishing an account of the miracles performed at Waltheof's tomb, in the chapter-house of Croyland. He was summoned before a council in London, 1075, accused of idolatry, and committed to prison at Glastonbury, "*sub cruentissimo tum abbate Thurstano, procul a notis et a sua patria.*" The treasure of the abbey was, at the same time, confiscated to the king.

Wulketul being thus deposed, William the Conqueror appointed to the abbacy Ingulphus, who became the historian, and the most efficient head of the monastery since the days of Turketul. He was a favourite of King William, having been

at court in 1051, when William paid his visit to Edward the Confessor, and so much attracted William's regard, that he invited him to accompany him to Normandy, and made him his secretary. Ingulphus afterwards set out with thirty knights and clerks on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. They had the ill fortune to be attacked and plundered by the Arabs before arriving at Jerusalem. They managed, however, to reach the Holy City, and saw the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, but were prevented visiting any other of the sacred places by the Arabs. They reached home, reduced to two-thirds of their number, and in the most deplorable state of wretchedness. Ingulphus retired to the Abbey of Fontenelle, where he became prior. When Duke William embarked for England, he brought him from his abbot twelve chosen horsemen, and a hundred marks for their pay; and William not only gave in return the vineyard *Cari Loci* to the Abbey of Fontenelle, but, on the deposition of Wulketul, sent for Ingulphus, and made him abbot of Croyland.

Ingulphus found the affairs of the abbey in great disorder. The monks amounted to sixty-two, but four were lay brethren; and there were more than a hundred monks from other monasteries residing there, who were called "comprofessi." These were from Thorney, Peterborough, Ely, St. Edmundsbury, and places as distant as St. Albans, Westminster, Norwich, and even York. They came and went as they pleased, staying half a year, or a year, and then returning to their own monastery again. The plea for this was the troubled state of the times, and the necessity of seeking a place of security. But we may suppose that there was a good deal of license in the practice; and Ingulphus, accordingly, found the affairs of the convent in a very ruinous state. The steward had grown enormously rich, and, when Ingulphus examined into his accounts, he

claimed Helicestone, one of the manors, as his own. Ingulphus brought the matter before the king's judges at Stamford; and as Ashford, this unjust steward, was riding thither on the day appointed, his horse threw him and broke his neck. This was regarded as a clearly divine judgment; but this was not all. As the body of Ashford was carried in his coffin to burial at Peterborough, a sudden darkness and heavy rain fell on the procession; the coffin was thrown violently from the bearers' shoulders, was broken open, and the corpse rolled out on the muddy ground, where it was suffered to lie a considerable time, no one daring to approach it. These awful events settled the question, not only of the right of the monastery to Helicestone; but thenceforward, says Ingulphus, no one ever again dared to encroach on the patrimony of St. Guthlac.

From this period to the dissolution, the monastery enjoyed a state of great prosperity. Ingulphus went up to London to solicit the king on many accounts. The first matter was highly creditable to him. It was to pray William to remit the punishment of Wulketul, and allow him to return to Croyland. William restored him to liberty, but forbade him to approach Croyland except on special invitation from Ingulphus himself. Ingulphus, however, found frequent occasion to invite him thither, on the plea of consulting him on matters connected with the rights of the monastery, on which no prior was so well informed, and thus he added much to the comfort of the old abbot during the remainder of his days. Ingulphus also laid claim to many parts of the possessions of the convent which had been usurped by the new lords of the land, and succeeded against all but the too powerful Ivo Tailbois, who still kept fast hold on the manor of Spalding; but Ingulphus left a strict charge to his successors to assert their right to it on all possible occasions. A few days after his return home, we are told that

“ the winter fet in with unufual feverity. The provifions of the convent failed ; the fens were fo bound up with ice, that nothing could be conveyed from the neighbouring manors. In this extremity, Abbot Ingulphus betook himfelf to prayer for a whole night before St. Guthlac’s fhine. In the morning, while the convent was at prayers in the church, a voice was fuddenly heard from the north part of the monaftery, as of an angel faying, ‘ Accipite viâtualia fratribus, et parate panes ut manducent hii.’ The whole convent running out, no perfon could be feen ; but four large facks, two of wheat and two of flour, were ftanding in readinefs in the church-yard.”

But, relieved miraculoufly from one difficulty, Ingulphus found himfelf in another. The Conqueror was dead, William Rufus was on the throne, and the infatiable Tailbois, who was in favour with the king, feized on all the lands of the abbey within his demefne, at Cappelade, Spalding, Pyncebeck, and Algaré. Ingulphus tried the mediation of Richard de Rulos and other friends, but without avail ; and he then reforted to Archbishop Lanfranc, to whom he exhibited the title to the abbey lands, and who boldly ordered the Sheriff of Lincoln to compel reftoration. But the flood of the misfortunes of Croyland had not reached its height. In 1091, four years after Tailbois was compelled to difgorge the abbey lands, a fire broke out in the monaftery, through the careleffnefs of a plumber, and confumed the greater part of the fabric and many of the charters. No fooner was this known than many powerful friends fent in provifions and money for the prefent fupport of the monks and the rebuilding of the convent. But the news was alfo fpecially delightful to the greedy Ivo Tailbois, who hoped that there was an end to the title-deeds of the lands he coveted. But thefe had efaped, and this Norman harpy was difappointed. He then fet on ruffians to waylay the clerk of Trigus (who had

produced the deeds at Spalding) who seized and searched him ; but they were again disappointed, for the wary clerk had sent them another way. From that time Ingulphus kept the surviving charters in great secrecy ; and soon after Tailbois was accused of conspiring against the king, and outlawed ; and thus the convent was relieved of his persecutions.

Ingulphus closed his distinguished career in 1109, and was buried with all honour in the chapter-house. Joffrid, the prior of St. Ebrulph, in Normandy, succeeded him, and began rebuilding the monastery. For this purpose indulgences were liberally granted, and the monks travelled with them over Wales, Ireland, Cornwall, Denmark, Norway, France, Flanders, and Scotland. Other monks, very learned men—Gilbert, Odo, and William—proceeded to Cambridge, and delivered lectures on grammar, rhetoric, and logic, on Tully and Quintillian, and preached also on Sundays and Saints' days in English, Latin, and French, and against the Jews. Their lectures were exceedingly popular, and greatly aided the building fund. In the year 1114, Joffrid laid the first stone of the new building, and was followed by many distinguished persons, both gentlemen and ladies, who each laid a stone, and then a contribution upon it. Some laid down money, some an order for a quarrier, a mason, or a carpenter, to work on the building at their expense ; others laid down the title to the patronage of different churches. These, of course, were barons, knights, and ladies of great estate. The bases of each pillar were laid by companies of workmen, fifty and sixty in number, who each offered one day's work in a month till the whole should be finished. Or they were laid by the priest, deacon, and men of different parishes, who gave wheat, or malt, or the quarrying and carriage of stone, or money to an equal value. Whilst they laid the different stones, the Abbot

Joffrid delivered a discourse to each party, and then invited them to attend prayers, and afterwards to dinner. The abbots of Croyland and Thorney, with near four hundred monks of different monasteries, dined in the refectory; the two earls and two barons, with their wives, the knights and gentlemen, dined in the abbot's hall; the six companies who raised the six pillars, with their wives, in the cloister; and the populace in the court; the whole amounting to more than five thousand persons.

Three years later, whilst the building was in progress, and the roof not yet on, came an earthquake, cracked the new walls so that they had to be shored up with beams, and threw much of them down. Scarcely was the place finished, when it was burnt down again, and for the third time. The undaunted monks, however, set zealously to work, and once more rebuilt it in a very magnificent style; and William de Croyland, some years afterwards, made great additions to it.

Croyland was nearly related with the fate of the mad tyrant, King John. In the year 1216, when severely pressed by the barons and their ally the Dauphin Louis of France, John, in the autumn of that year, made himself master of Lincoln; and, taking up his head-quarters there, made many a predatory excursion into the country round for supplies, and for doing all possible damage to those who favoured the barons. His especial hatred fell on the Church, and on monasteries, from the great part which the Pope and Archbishop Langton had taken against him. The latter, indeed, had stirred up the barons to their opposition, and drawn the great charter which they compelled him to sign at Runnymede. At the beginning of October he marched through Peterborough, entered the district of Croyland, and plundered and burnt the farm-houses belonging to the abbey. Thence he crossed over to Lynn,

and, turning against Wisbeach, and attempting to cross the southern side of the Wash by the sands, at low water, at a place called the Cross Keys, he was overtaken by the tide before he reached the Foss Dyke, and had a great number of his men, his wagons and sumpter horses carrying his baggage and money, swept away. All the world knows the miserable end that he made. Coming direct from the plunder of religious houses, he was compelled to seek refuge at Swinehead Abbey, where he passed the night. Here he ate voraciously of peaches, or pears, and the next day was excessively ill. Tradition says that a monk aided his own gluttony by a dose of poison; but this is not recorded by any writer within half a century of the time, and probably was not needed to produce his death. His mortification at the loss of his baggage and troops, and his voracity, were, it may be supposed, enough to kill him. Travelling in great agony in a litter, he reached Newark, and there died.

During the wars of York and Lancaster, the unfortunate Henry VI. paid a visit to the tomb of St. Guthlac, and spent three days and three nights at the abbey, and was so charmed with the monastic life, that he desired to be admitted into the fraternity, and in return for this favour he granted the abbey a new charter of liberties. How exactly is this disposition portrayed by Shakspeare, when he makes Henry exclaim :—

Oh God! methinks it were a happy life,
To be no better than a homely swain,
To sit upon a hill as I do now,
To carve out dials quaintly, point by point,
Thereby to see the minutes how they run.

* * * * *

So many minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, and years,
Passed over to the end they were created,
Would bring white hairs unto a quiet grave.
Ah! what a life were this! how sweet! how lovely!

Gives not the hawthorn bush a sweeter shade
 To shepherds looking on their silly sheep,
 Than doth a rich embroidered canopy
 To kings that fear their subjects' treachery ?
 O yes, it doth, a thousandfold it doth !

This shows a spirit that would have found a heaven in the peaceful contemplations of the cloister. Henry was a monk set by a cross fate on a throne.

In 1464, Croyland had again great inmates. Margaret, Duchess of Somerset, and her daughter Margaret, the Countess of Richmond, are recorded to have been received into the sisterhood of Croyland.

The revenues of the abbey at the dissolution show that, in spite of all its greedy aristocratic neighbours, Croyland had managed to continue rich. Its gross revenue, according to Speed, was £1,217 5s. 11d.; its net income, according to Stevens and Tanner, £1,083 15s. 10½d. The east part of the church, with the transepts, was taken down soon after the dissolution ; but the nave and the aisles left standing as a parish church till the close of the seventeenth century, when, the roof and the south aisle falling, the north aisle was fitted up for the use of the parish, with a heavy, short tower. This tower is of the perpendicular order. On its right hand as you face it, stands, in a continued line, the beautiful old western front, in a richly decorated style, with a fine large window from which all the tracery has disappeared. This front is finely ornamented with niches, and statues of saints as large as life ; and on the summit formerly were pinnacles, with the figures of St. Bartholomew and St. Guthlac. These have long fallen ; but this front, now greatly decayed, and a portion of the south aisle in continuance, show that, in its perfection, Croyland was one of the most beautiful monasteries in the kingdom.

On the west side of the church stands the famous Triangular Bridge, the only one of the kind, I believe, remaining in the kingdom. It was built to admit three streams at their confluence, which ran through the town and met here. It consists of three semi-arches uniting in a common centre, and forming,



TRIANGULAR BRIDGE AT CROYLAND.

by their junction, as many pointed arches. It is supposed to have been designed as a symbol of the Trinity. It is too steep for carriages, and is little used even by horses. There was a bridge here as early as A.D. 943; it being mentioned in King Edward's charter of that date, and again in King Edgar's

charter, A.D. 966 ; but the present structure is not thought to be older than the reign of Edward I. At the end of the bridge next the London road are the remains of a statue, now much mutilated, but described in old books as that of King Ethelbald, the founder of the abbey. It was, when unbroken, in a fitting posture, dressed in royal robes, and with a globe in its hand.

The Triangular Bridge possesses the additional interest of being placed at the junction of the three counties of Lincoln, Cambridge, and Northampton.



Castleacre Priory.



CASTLEACRE PRIORY, in Norfolk, is one of the earliest Norman priories in England. It was founded by William de Warrene, the first Earl of Surrey, in 1085, only nineteen years after the Conquest. The remains of the west front, with portions of the north and south transept, show that it was erected in the highest style of Norman architecture. It has scarcely any projecting buttresses, but its level façade is enriched by successive tiers of arch-work, some of these simple, others interlacing. The great western entrance has a very rich round arch of many recesses or mouldings, elaborately ornamented with the zigzag, the dot, and other ornaments. Similar archways give entrance on either hand to the transepts, but they are less ornate, and of smaller dimensions. Within the great round arch is a lesser pointed one, evidently inserted afterwards to contract the passage to a more convenient size. Around and above this great archway are four successive tiers of arches running along the whole face of the front,—the lower and third interlacing, the second short and round, the fourth and uppermost consisting of curious zigzag arches. There has been a noble lofty window over the great western door, apparently of the perpendicular order. Altogether, the western front must have been very beautiful.

The description of the Priory in Blomfield's History, in 1775, shows that the whole of the structure was of equal elegance, and was a place of great extent: "The site of the priory church, which lies west of the castle, was a venerable large Gothic pile of freestone, flint, &c., and built in a cathedral or conventual manner. Great part of the front, or west end of it, is



CASTLEACRE PRIORY: WEST FRONT.

still remaining, where the principal entrance was through a great arch, over which was a stately window. On each side of the great door were doors to enter into the north and south aisles. At the north and south ends of this front stood two towers, supported by strong arches and pillars. The nave,

or body, had twelve great pillars, making seven arches on each side, the lowest joining to the towers. On the east end of the nave stood the grand tower, supported by four great pillars, through which was the entrance into the choir. On the south and north sides of this tower were two cross aisles or transepts; and at the end of the north transept there seems to have been a chapel or vestry. The choir was of equal breadth with the nave and aisles, but much shorter, and the east end of it was in form of a chapel. The chapter-house seems to have joined the east side of the cloister, and the dormitory to have been near the west part of the cloister. West of the cloister, and adjoining, was the prior's apartment, now converted into a farm-house. In a large room above-stairs, called the prior's dining-room, is a curious bow-window of stone, consisting of nine panels. In the first were the arms of the priory, painted on glass; in the second, the arms of the Earl of Arundel, and Earl Warren, quarterly, but now broken and gone; in the third, Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, gules, a lion rampant argent; fourth, the red and white rose united, and a crown over it; fifth, France and England, quarterly; sixth, the rose, &c., as above; seventh, Earl Warren's arms; eighth, quarterly, the Earl of Arundel in the first and fourth quarter, and in the second and third, Maltravers, sable, fretty, or, and Fitz-Alan, Baron of Clun, per fess, azure, and argent quarterly; ninth, argent, a cross componè, or and azure, between twelve cross crosslets, fitchè sable: the priory arms, I take it; and these letters J. W. joined together by a knot, and, under it, SPITV. PRINCIPALI. CONFIRMA. ME. By this it appears that this window was built by John Winchelsey, prior in the reign of Henry VII. or VIII."

Blomfield thinks this was originally a chapel, and part of the original erection, having the arms of Warren conspicuous on

its south wall, but that it was afterwards altered into a dining-room. He adds, "The site of this priory took in several acres. The grand entrance was north of the priory church, where is now standing a large and stately gatehouse of freestone. Over the arch, as you enter, are the arms of the Earl Warren, of Arundel, and Warren, quarterly, France and England, and those of the priory. The whole site was enclosed with a lofty stone wall, good part of which is still standing."

In these armorial bearings we have, in fact, a history of the patronage of the priory. In the first place it was that of the Warrens, Earls of Surrey. These were amongst the most powerful nobles in England from the Conquest till the reigns of the Edwards. Warren came over with the Conqueror, and obtained great estates in Surrey and Norfolk. He is said to have been son-in-law to the Conqueror, having married his fifth daughter. We find Earl Warren amongst the very first noblemen who opposed the arbitrary acts of King John. He was one of the four who signed the instructions given by John to Pandulph, engaging to obey the pope; but when John set at defiance both his engagement to the pope and his engagements to the barons, Warren was one of the three,—namely, Cardinal Langton and the Earls of Pembroke and Warren,—who were sent as a deputation to John at Oxford; and, not obtaining satisfaction, he was one of the barons who appeared at Runnymede, and compelled the king to sign Magna Charta. Again, in the thirteenth century, we find the then Earl Warren taking a prominent part in the resistance of the barons to the encroachments of Henry III., and appearing on the side of Mortimer, Earl of Leicester. Warren, however, accepted the professions of the king made in the statutes of Oxford, in 1258, and afterwards fought on the royal side. In the follow-

ing reign, that of Edward I., when that vigorous monarch endeavoured to recover some of the crown lands which the nobles had usurped under weak sovereigns, and sent forth a commission to examine the titles by which some of the great barons held their estates, he met with a sort of resistance in Earl Warren, which made him pause in so dangerous a course. When his commissioners asked Earl Warren to show his titles, the earl drew his sword, and said: "By this instrument do I hold my lands, and by the same I intend to defend them! Our ancestors, coming into this realm with William the Bastard, acquired their possessions by their good swords. William did not make a conquest alone, or for himself solely; our ancestors were helpers and participants with him." The astounded commissioners had no answer to such an argument; and Edward found it best to let the great nobles alone, and to prosecute his inquiries into the titles of men who were not so well prepared with steel logic.

In the course of time, by marriage and otherwise, the Warrens became allied to the Dukes of Norfolk, the Earls of Arundel, the families of Maltravers and Fitz-Alan of Clun, as the arms emblazoned in the priory showed. But, besides these, the Bishops of Norwich and the Archbishops of Canterbury were great patrons of Castleacre, and the list of its benefactors, as given by Dugdale, is very long. It received manors, rectories, advowsons, rents, &c., so that at the dissolution its gross revenue amounted to £324 17s. 5½d., and its clear revenue, £306 11s. 4½d. As early as the thirteenth century, the prior was found to hold four hundred and sixty acres of arable land, twenty of pasture, ten of meadow, five watermills, with liberty of fishing in the neighbouring waters. Besides this, he had thirty-six tenants in the town, with a court baron. Though but a cell of Lewes, yet Castleacre

had itself subordinate cells: Mindham, or Mendham, in Suffolk; Bromholm, South Reinham, and Sliveholm in Norfolk; a hospital at Racheneffe, in Southacre, for lepers; and Crabhouse, or Wigenhall priory, in Norfolk, for Austen nuns. Its monks were of the Cliniac order.

No very remarkable event seems to have broken the age-long tranquillity of Castleacre; but there is one curious entry in its records, which shows how prone people have been at all times to convert benefactions into vested rights. "John Plantagenet, Earl Warren, by his deed of May 10th (9 Edw. II.), recites that, whereas his stewards and others his officers in Norfolk had demanded of this priory certain pensions of meats and drinks as their right, because they had been given at first by the monks, out of their free will and respect to the servants of the Earls of Warren, belonging to their manor of Wike in Castleacre, he by this deed quits claim to the same, and charges his officers not to demand or receive it for the future."

The site of this monastery, within its walled precincts, is said to have contained twenty-nine acres, two roods, ten perches. Great dilapidations have taken place in the ruins since the description quoted above was given of them by Blomfield. Parkins, in his History of Norfolk, gives many pages of the gifts of churches, manors, lands, tithes, &c., by men and women of estate, to this priory.

The Church of Castleacre, which formerly belonged to the priory, is a large regular building, in which lie buried, amongst other ancients, the remains of Old Paine, of Castleacre, who was standard-bearer to Henry VIII. A little towards the east of the priory stood the castle of the Earls of Warren and Surrey, on a rising ground, including within its fortifications and outworks about eighteen acres of ground in a circular form. No doubt it was in this strong place that the Earl Warren of

Edward I.'s time received the royal commissioners, and produced his sword as his title to his estates. In this castle the earl received the king, Edward I. himself, in 1297; and it appears to have been his favourite residence, although he had 140 lordships in Norfolk besides.



CASTLEACRE PRIORY : INTERIOR.

On the death of John, Earl Warren, in 1347, in the twenty-sixth year of the reign of Edward III., the estates and title passed to his nephew, Richard Fitz-Alan, Earl of Arundel, the son of his sister Alice, and the title thence became Surrey and Arundel. His son Richard, Earl of Surrey and Arundel, rendering great services to Richard II., received a considerable

grant of money for these services ; yet, in the twenty-first year of the same king, he was attainted and beheaded, and his estates and this manor granted to his son-in-law, Thomas Mowbray, Earl-Marshal and Earl of Nottingham, afterwards Duke of Norfolk, who is said to have been so inhuman as to bind up his father-in-law's eyes, and become his executioner.

The earldom of Arundel passed by marriage into the family of the Duke of Norfolk ; but Castleacre was sold by Henry, Earl of Arundel, in the first year of Queen Elizabeth, to Sir Thomas Gresham, and was conveyed by him to Thomas Cecil, Earl of Exeter. Sir Edward Coke, Lord Chief Justice, bought Castleacre of William Cecil, Earl of Exeter, whose sister Elizabeth he married ; and in this family it remained, Thomas Coke, Earl of Leicester, dying possessed of it in 1759.



Richmond Castle.



ICHMOND is the capital of the western part of the North Riding of Yorkshire. Camden says,—“Richmondshire, or Richmondshire, from the castle built there on the Mount, comprehends the five wapentakes of Gilling West and East, Hang West and Hang East, Halchold, and Claro :

bounded on the north by the river Tees ; on the east by the river Whisk, a branch of the Swale ; on the west by Westmoreland, and on the south by the river Nide and the West Riding.”

Leland describes the country round as at once beautiful and fertile :—“The whole country of Richmondshire, by east from the hills and dales, is plentiful of whete and rye, and metely good meadows and woods. The best woods lye by east of Swale and Ure rivers. In the dales they burn linge, petes and turfes. In places where they cut down linge, good grafs springeth for the cattle for a yere or two until the linge overgrow it. There is plenty of good stone to be quarried in very many places of Richmondshire. The shire hath plenty of tyllage. There be no colepits in Richmond ; yet the easterly parts of Richmondshire burne much se coles brought out of Durham. There be some veins of cole found in the upper

part of the west mounts of Richmond, but not used for incommodity of carriage to the lower part."

"Almost the whole country," says Camden, "rises in craggy rocks and ridges of hills, among which are grassy vales; and the bottoms and dales are tolerably fertile. The hills themselves yield plenty of lead, coal, and copper. For, in the charter of Edward IV., we find a copper mine near the town of Richmond. But avarice, which would urge mankind to carry their researches even to hell itself, has made no great progress in these mountains, discouraged, perhaps, by the difficulty of carriage."

He notices the abundant limestone deposits and their fossils:—"As to the stones resembling sea shells and other marine productions, found on the tops of hills, as well as in other places, if they are not *lusus naturæ*, I should suppose them certain evidences of the universal deluge of Noah, agreeable to the opinion of Orosius, a Christian historian, who thus expresses himself:—'When the sea, under Noah, covered the whole earth, and the deluge overspread the whole globe, all was air and sea. We have it on the authority of writers of undoubted veracity, that all mankind was destroyed except the few preserved in the ark, in reward of their faith, to repopulate the world. These facts are confirmed even by those who, without knowing the transactions of past times, or even the Author of time itself, have yet been led to conjecture it by evidence and appearances of stones which we find in hills remote from the sea, full of shells and oysters, and frequently hollowed by water.'"

The side next to Lancashire excites his astonishment by its wildness:—"On the side of the country next to Lancashire is such a dreary waste and horrid wilderness among the mountains, that certain little rivulets that creep here are called

by the neighbourhood ‘hell becks;’ *q. d.*, rivers or streams of hell, and especially that at the head of the Ure, which runs under a bridge of a single rock in so deep a channel as to strike beholders with horror. In this part the goats, deer, and stags, of extraordinary size, with branching horns, find a secure retreat.”

The goats, deer, and stags have long since vanished, but the stern ruggedness of the scenery remains. By following the courses of the two chief rivers, the Ure and the Swale, Camden informs us of the numerous families of distinction which then held the property of the country for the most part. These were the Medcalfes of Nappa, “a house with towers,” who, he says, were at that time reckoned the most numerous family in all England. “I have heard,” he says, “that Sir Charles Medcalfe, the first of this family, was attended by three hundred persons of the same family, and in the same livery, on horseback, when, as sheriff of the county, he met the judges and conducted them to York.” Sir Charles, he adds, brought crayfish from the south of England, and put them into the Ure, which ran past his house, and forced its way between two rocks at a place thence called Att-Scarre. That the crayfish have ever since abounded in the Ure, which, quitting Nappa, approached Bolton, the magnificent castle of Richard, Lord Scrope, the Chancellor of England. Then leaving the residence of the Lords Scrope, it turned eastward to the town of Middleham; the honour of which Alan, the first Earl of Richmond, who had received it of the Conqueror, conferred on his brother Rinebald, with all the lands which, before their coming, had belonged to Gilpatric the Dane. In the reign of Henry II., Conan, the then Earl of Richmond, likewise gave all Wenfleydale to his relative, Robert Fitz-Ralph, who built a very strong tower at Middleham. His great-granddaughter Mary

conveyed all this property into the family of the Nevilles by marriage.

The Ure then flows on to Jervaulx, or Jervis, Abbey,—ruined, Camden says, in his time,—and then to Masham, possessed by a branch of the great family of Scrope of Bolton. On the other side of the river was Snath, the chief seat of the Lords Latimer, who were descended from the Nevilles, Earls of Westmoreland, and which estate afterwards went by a family of daughters into the families of Percy, Cecil, Danvers, and Cornwallis. The Ure next reached Tanfield, formerly the residence of the Gernegans, who afterwards merged by marriage into the Greys, Lords of Rotherfield, and assumed the name of Marmion.

The Ure now receives the Swale, which has run from the western hills, scarce five miles above the head of the Ure, and takes the name of the Swale, running by Richmond, and so to Catterick; or, anciently, Cataracton, from the rapidity of the torrent. The Swale here was famous for Paulinus having baptized in it above ten thousand Saxons, men, women, and children. In the country around also lived the Barons Fitz-Hughs, of Ravensworth Castle, descended from the Saxons, and who had increased their estates by marriages with the great families of Marmion and Furneaux, and which then went by marriage to the Fiennes, Lords Dacre of the south, and the Parrs.

The Swale, continuing its course by Hornby, Bedale, and Topcliffe to Mitton, near Aldborough, then becomes the Ouse, and flows on to York. In this part of its course, in Camden's time, it washed the estates of the Fitz-Alans of Bedale, which family merged into those of the Stapletons and Greys of Rotherford. At Topcliffe was the chief seat of the Percies.

Here then, following the rivers, we have the catalogue of the

chief lords of the foil, the Scropes, Danvers, Marmions, Greys, Percies, Latimers, Nevilles, Fitz-Hughs, and Fitz-Alans, the Furneaux, Fiennes, Dacres, Parrs, &c., all great names in the history of this country during the baronial ages, and most of them to the time of the Tudors, and some of them of wealth and distinction yet. Such was Richmondshire in Camden's time,—a land of hills and streams, of heaths and woods, fair meads and fertile fields; of the chase, with its deer and stags of extraordinary size, and consequently an attractive place to great knights and barons. The centre of this fine wild and yet agricultural country was Richmond, and its castle was inhabited for many ages by the earls of that name. These were originally earls and then dukes of Brittany. The first was Alan the Red Earl of Brittany; but it was to his brother Alan the Black that the Conqueror gave Richmondshire. Conan, the earl in Henry II.'s time, found his earldom of Brittany usurped by his father-in-law, Viscount Porheot, and only recovered it by help of Henry II. The son of Henry, Geoffrey Plantagenet, married Constance, the sole heiress of Conan, and became Earl of Richmond; but the earldom did not descend in his line, for the son of Geoffrey and Constance, Prince Arthur, was murdered by his uncle, King John of England, and the earldom of Richmond passed to the issue of Alice, the only daughter of the Duchess Constance, mother of Arthur, by her second husband, Guido, Viscount of Thouars. The story of Prince Arthur has been made immortal by Shakspeare, and as connected with this castle and estate demands a concise recital.

Geoffrey, the elder brother of John, and father of Arthur, being dead at the time of the death of Richard I., John determined to usurp from his nephew, a mere boy, not only the throne of England, but the sovereignty of Brittany, Normandy, Touraine, and Anjou. For this purpose he pretended a will

of King Richard's appointing him his successor ; but, not trusting entirely to this, he collected the barons at Northampton, and there by bribes and fine promises induced them to elect him as king. The hereditary descent of the crown had been so thoroughly broken by the Conqueror, that it was neither then nor for ages after again restored and firmly settled. John was playing a desperate game for his posterity, in making the crown elective, and the gift of the nation. On the other hand, this was a doctrine so agreeable to the people, that he found no difficulty in procuring the consent of the prelates, and his encrownment by the Archbishop of Canterbury on this plea. The archbishop laid it down as a fact that no one could be rightfully monarch in England, except by popular choice and voice ; and Matthew of Paris gives these words as the opening speech of the archbishop on this occasion : " Hear all ye people ! It is well known that no one can have a right to the crown of this kingdom, unless for his excellent virtues he be elected to it, and then anointed king, as was the case with David, Saul, &c. And thus it was ordained, to the end that he whose merits are pre-eminent be chosen lord of all the people."

Thereupon the archbishop declared John the possessor of these pre-eminent merits, and so justly king. The people of Brittany were enthusiastic in favour of their Prince Arthur ; but, unfortunately for him, he had in John of England and Philip of France two of the most dangerous enemies in the guise of pretended friends. Each was anxious to seize on his territories, and one was as unscrupulous as the other. Constance, the mother of Arthur, a woman of strong passions and full of intrigue, had lately married a third husband, the second being still alive. She carried her boy to the King of France to insure his safety against John, and offered the direct vassalage

of Normandy, Anjou and Aquitaine, which belonged to Arthur, as the price of this protection. Philip, too glad to possess such a pretext for invasion, joined William Desroches, the commander of the Breton force, and took several towns and castles on the frontiers of Brittany from the English; but he soon betrayed his design by destroying these castles, in order to lay open the country to entrance at his pleasure. Desroches, indignant at this proceeding, withdrew Arthur and his mother from the French court. Philip, however, regained the person of Arthur, and promised not only to respect his interests, but to make them his own by marrying him to his daughter Mary. But he was not long in sacrificing all these interests in a peace which he was compelled to make with John; and that ruthless tyrant invaded Aquitaine and Poictou, where he did all he could for a time to ingratiate himself with the nobles, but ended by carrying off Isabella, the daughter of the Count of Angoulême, and the wife of the powerful Count De la Marche, a very beautiful woman. John had been married ten years to Avifa, the daughter of the Earl of Gloucester, a handsome and good woman, notwithstanding which he married Isabella too, at Angoulême; the Archbishop of Bordeaux being pliant enough to perform the ceremony; and John then brought her over to England, and not only paraded her there, but had her crowned, and himself recrowned with her, by the equally pliant Archbishop of Canterbury. In the meantime, the Count De la Marche, in revenge for the abduction of his wife, raised a great rebellion in Poictou and Aquitaine; and in the following year, 1202, the King of France incited Prince Arthur to assert his rights in Aquitaine, and furnished him with 200 knights; promising himself, at the same time, to invade Normandy on his behalf. Arthur was still but a boy of fifteen years of age, his mother was dead, and

he was totally incapable of competing with the stout soldiers of John. The Bretons followed him with 500 knights and 4,000 foot-foldiers, and the barons of Touraine and Poictou sent him 110 men-at-arms. Arthur was advised to lay siege to Mirabeau, where his grandmother, Eleanor of Aquitaine, was residing. This violent and licentious woman, who had filled her own house with hatred and rebellion, and had instigated her sons to a most unnatural insurrection against their father, King Henry II., had proved as fierce an enemy to both Arthur and his mother. The town was soon taken, but Eleanor threw herself into the citadel; and before this could be reduced, John was upon the Breton army, and not only secured the person of Arthur, but of 200 knights and nobles; amongst them the Count De la Marche himself, and the Viscounts of Limoges, Lusignan and Thouars, the last being the second husband of Constance, Arthur's mother. John took such a vengeance on these noblemen as was congenial to his diabolic nature: he threw them into dungeons in Normandy and England, where most of them were left to perish of hunger. Of those carried over to England, twenty-two are said thus to have perished in the dungeons of Corfe Castle in Dorsetshire, where, in Saxon times, Edward the Martyr was murdered by his step-mother, Elfrida. There are various traditions of the fate of the unhappy Arthur, but all having a tragical termination. John confined him first in the castle of Falaïse, and then in the castle of Rouen, where all positive knowledge of him ceases. Matthew of Paris says that at Falaïse John endeavoured to coax the boy to trust to the kindness of his uncle; but that Arthur replied, indignantly, "Give me mine inheritance, restore to me my kingdom of England;" that from that time John determined his death, removed him to Rouen, with orders to keep him closely confined, and that nothing more was ever known of him. It was,

however, universally reported that John had murdered him with his own hand; and the Monks of Margan entered it in their Yearly Notes that "John, being at Rouen in the week before Easter, 1203, after he had finished his dinner, instigated by drunkenness and malignant fiends, literally embrewed his hands in the blood of his defenceless nephew, and caused his body to be thrown into the Seine, with heavy stones fastened to his feet;—that the body was notwithstanding cast on shore, and burnt at the abbey of Bec, secretly, for fear of the tyrant."

A popular tradition of the Bretons is that John took Arthur from the castle of Rouen, and on the way towards Cherbourg, as they travelled on horseback one evening, having outridden the rest of the company, they paused on a high cliff over the sea, where John suddenly thrust the poor boy through with his sword, and toppled him over the precipice, still alive and begging for mercy, into the sea. Ralph, the Abbot of Coggeshall, gives the story as most nearly followed by Shakspere. He says that at Falaise some of John's courtiers,—and history shows that he had a number about him as complete fiends as himself,—assured him that the Bretons were widely plotting for the rescue of Arthur, advised that he should put out his eyes, and thus render him incapable of governing; that John sent some hardened villains to execute this atrocity; but that the compassion of his guards, and especially of Hubert de Burgh, the warden of the castle, prevented this. He was, therefore, removed to Rouen, where John sent for the victim into a boat at night on the river, and there ordered his esquire, Peter de Maulac, to murder him; but that, Maulac shrinking from the crime, John himself, in spite of the lad's prayers for mercy, stabbed him and flung him overboard. Hemingford and Knyghton, on the other hand, assert that De Maulac did the deed. At all events he appears to have been an accomplice

in it; for John soon after gave him the heiress of Mulgref in marriage, as the reward for his crime.

This is the tradition which Shakspeare has followed; but, instead of Falaise and Rouen, he has placed the scene of these horrid deeds in the castle of Northampton; and relieved John of the actual murder, by making Arthur kill himself by a fall from the castle wall in endeavouring to escape. The reader will recollect the masterly manner in which the poet makes the monster John impart to Hubert the deadly deed he intends him to execute:—

John (to Hubert). Hubert, I am almost ashamed
To say what good respect I have of thee.
Hubert. I am much bounden to your Majesty.
John. Good friend, thou hast no cause to say so yet:
But thou shalt have; and time creep ne'er so slow,
Yet it shall come for me to do thee good.
I had a thing to say,—but let it go:
The sun is in the heaven, and the proud day,
Attended with the pleasures of the world,
Is all too wanton and too full of gawds
To give me audience. If the midnight bell
Did, with his iron tongue and brazen mouth,
Sound one unto the drowsy race of night:
If this fame were a church-yard where we stand,
And thou possessed with a thousand wrongs;
Or if that furly spirit, melancholy,
Had baked thy blood, and made it heavy, thick;
(Which else runs tickling up and down the veins,
Making that idiot, laughter, keep men's eyes,
And strain their cheeks to idle merriment,
A passion hateful to my purposes;)
Or if that thou couldst see me without eyes,
Hear me without thine ears, and make reply
Without a tongue, using conceit alone
Without eyes, ears, and harmful sound of words;
Then, in despite of brooded watchful day,
I would into thy bosom pour my thoughts:
But ah, I will not:—yet I love thee well.

The monster king, however, does unfold his design, and Hubert pretends to execute it, but does not. After Arthur's

death, Philip of France, on pretext of avenging Arthur, invaded the British possessions in that kingdom ; and, in 1205, Normandy, Anjou, Maine, Touraine, and Poictou, successively fell into his hands, and were lost to the English crown, and became the cause of long subsequent wars. Thus John paid dearly for his treason to his nephew : nor did his troubles end here : his whole life was one great trouble. His barons revolted ; Lewis, the Dauphin of France, invaded England at their invitation, and this country had a narrow escape of becoming a French province. Such are the romantic incidents of the short life of one of the earliest earls of Richmond.

After the death of Arthur, Guido, Viscount de Thouars, the second husband of Constance, became Earl of Richmond ; then Ranulph III., Earl of Chester, her third husband. To him succeeded Peter de Dreux, who married the only daughter of Alice, only daughter of Constance, by Guido de Thouars. In this line it descended till the reign of Edward III., several of the earls marrying into the royal family. Edward III. gave the earldom for a time to his son, John of Gaunt ; and subsequently to John de Montfort, Duke of Brittany. In Richard II.'s reign he lost this earldom by taking part with France ; and the king gave it to Montfort's sister Joan, widow of Ralph Basset, of Draiton. It then passed to Ralph Neville, Earl of Westmoreland ; after him to John, Duke of Bedford. Henry VI. conferred it on his own brother, Edward de Hadham, by particular right, that he might have a seat next to the dukes in parliament ; and thus it came to his son, Henry VII. of England. Before Henry won the crown, and while he lived in exile, the earldom was possessed by the brothers of Edward IV.—the Duke of Clarence who perished in the butt of sack ; and Richard, Duke of Gloucester, the usurper. Henry VIII. conferred the earldom on a natural son of his, who died without children.

James I. presented the earldom of Richmond to Henry Lodowic, Duke of Lennox, whom he created Duke of Richmond. In that line it continued till 1672, when, on its lapse, Charles I. conferred the dukedom on his natural son by Louisa Querouaille, Ducheſs of Portſmouth, whom he created Duke of Lennox, Earl of Darnley, Baron Methuen of Torbolton, in Scotland, and Duke of Aubigne, in France. In this family the title and eſtates ſtill remain.

Thus it appears that Richmond Caſtle has, ſince its firſt erection, been ſucceſſively in poſſeſſion of families cloſely connected with royalty ; often reverting to the crown, to be again conferred on ſome allied perſon, and frequently on the natural children of the monarch. It has in turn been in the hands of every different dynasty. Plantagenet, York, Lancaſter, Tudor, and Stuart, all have been its maſters, and its beſtowers. Mad King John, John of Gaunt, “ hump-backed Richard,” Henry VII., all were lords of Richmond. If it has produced no one of particular pre-eminence of genius, it has been the property of thoſe who have made a tolerable noiſe in the world ; but no part of its hiſtory is ſo intereſting as its connection with the unfortunate Prince Arthur. Its union for ſo many generations with the dukedoms of Brittany and Normandy gives it alſo a greater hiſtorical importance : that the dukes of Brittany, the princes of Aquitaine, Touraine, Normandy, and Poiſtou, ſhould alſo have their houſe, eſtate, and title in this Yorkſhire diſtrict, ſeems now-a-days curious.

But long before the days of the Bretons and Normans, this neighbourhood was a favourite place with the Romans. Numerous coins of various Roman emperors have been dug up on the caſtle hill ; and the foundations of Roman ſtations, with coins, urns, and other relics, have been found at Catteric, and ſtill more at Bowes and on the banks of the Greta ; with

altars and memorial stones, the inscriptions on some of which will be found in Leland and Camden. Leland's account of Richmond itself is quaint: "Richmond town is waulid, and the castle on the river side of Swale is as the knot of the cumpace of the waulle. In the waulle be three gates: French



RICHMOND CASTLE.

gate, the moft occupied in the north part of the town; Finkel-ftreete-gate, Bargate; al three be down; veftiges yet remain. In the market-place is a large chapel of the Trinite. The cumpace of the ruinous waulles is not half a mile about. There are fuburbs to all the gates; but French-gate fuburb is almoft as big as the other fuburbs, and in it is the parifh church

of the whole town. At the back of the French gate is the Grey Freres, a little without the walls, so that the town walle compaffith litle but the market-place, the howfes about it, and the gardens between them. The caſtle is nere hand, much in cumpace as the circuit of the town wall, but now it is in mere ruin. There is a conduit of water, elſe there is none in Richmond.

“I cam through the great long ſtrete in Richmond, or I cam to the top of the hill where the beſt of the town called the bailly and the caſtle; ſome think that the place where the baily is was once *externa area caſtelli*, and ſince builded with houſes. Waulled it was, but the waul is now decayed. The names and places of four or five gates remain. There is a chapel in Richmond town, with ſtrange figures in the walls of it. The people there deeme that it was once a temple of idols.”

Camden in his time deſcribes the monaſtery of the Grey Friars in Richmond as reduced to its beautiful ſquare tower, and ſays:—“The caſtle ſtands upon the ſouth ſide of the hill, overhanging the river, with a large cataſt just under it. A more inacceſſible ſituation can hardly be conceived. The ſite is circular. On the north it was defended by a deep ditch and drawbridge, whoſe arch, buried by time, was diſcovered in 1732 by the induſtry of Mr. Wharton, agent to the Duke of Richmond; but it has ſince been buried, and a houſe been built on or near it. The prodigious riſe of the ground conceals the entrance to the caſtle, the ſpacious arch of which may be ſeen within, ſtopped up under or near a ſquare tower, ninety-nine feet high, of three ſtories, built by Conan, Earl of Richmond, in the twelfth century, with a large round column in the middle, which once ſupported the flooring. From its top is a moſt extenſive proſpect over Swaledale, a deep valley with rich

pasture, between a chain of bleak, dreary hills, extending north to Stanemore, and west to Westmoreland. On the south side of the area was the chapel and hall. In the east wall, which is most entire, are two towers, called Robin Hood's and the Golden Tower."

There was a Priory of St. Martin at Richmond, which was a cell to the abbey of St. Mary at York. It was founded by Wymar, dapifer or steward to the Earl of Richmond, about the year 1100, with certain lands in its neighbourhood; and a cell of nine or ten monks sent from St. Mary's at York was settled there, and continued till the dissolution.

Let us now see how Richmond and its castle look at the present day. A recent writer (Walter White) shows them to us with the old features still looking through sundry modern ones:—"You come to the brow of a long declivity, the end of the moors, and are rewarded by a view which rivals that seen from Scarthe Nick. Swaledale opens before you, overspread with waving fields of grain, with numerous farmsteads scattered up and down, with a long range of cliff breaking the opposite slope, and, about four miles distant, Richmond, its lofty seat crowned by the square castle keep, tall and massive. I saw it lit by the afternoon sun, and needed no better invitation for a half-hour's halt on the heathery bank. You descend to the wheat-fields, and see no more of the town till close upon it. Swale, as you will notice while crossing the bridge, still shows the characteristics of a mountain stream. Very steep is the grass-grown street leading from the river up to the main part of the town. The castle occupies the summit of a bluff, which, rising bold and high from the Swale, commands a noble prospect over what Whitaker calls 'the Piedmont of Richmondshire.' On the other side, towards the river, the walls are all broken and ruinous, with here and there a loophole, or window

opening, through which you may look abroad on the landscape, and ponder on the changes which have befallen since Alan the Red built a fortress here on the lands given to him in reward for prowess by the Conqueror. It was in 1071 that he began to fortify, and portions of his masonry yet remain, fringed with ivy and tufts of grass, and here and there the bugloss growing from the crevices. Perhaps, while you saunter to and fro in the castle-yard, the keeper will appear, and tell you—though not without leave—his story of the ruins. If it will add to your pleasure, he will show you the spot where George IV. sat when Prince of Wales, and declared the prospect to be the finest he had ever beheld. You will be told which is Robin Hood's Tower, which the Gold Tower,—so called because of a tradition that treasure was once discovered therein—and which is Scotland's Hall, where knights, and nobles, and high-born dames held their banquets. And here you will be reminded of Fitzhughs and Marmions, Randolph de Glanville, and William the Lion, of Nevilles and Scropes, and of the Lennox—a natural son of Charles II.—to whom the Merry Monarch gave the dukedom of Richmond, and to whose descendants it still belongs.

“ One side of the garth is enclosed by a new building, to be used as barracks or a military depot, and near this, at the angle towards the town, rises the keep. What a mighty tower it is! ninety-nine feet high, the walls eleven feet thick, strengthened on all sides by straight buttresses, an impressive memorial of the Normans. It was built by Earl Conan, seventy-five years after Alan the Red's bastions. The lowest chamber is dark and vaulted, with the rings still remaining to which the lamps were hung, and a floor of natural rock pierced by the old well. The chief entrance is now on the first floor, to which you mount by an outer stair, and the first things you see on entering are the arms and accoutrements of the Yorkshire Militia, all

carefully arranged. The view from the top delights your eye by its variety and extent—a great scene of green hills and woods, the winding dale, and, beyond, the brown heights that stretch away to the mountains. You see the town and all its picturesque features; the towers of St. Mary's and the old Gray Friars' Monastery, and Trinity Chapel at the side of the Market-place, now defaced by an intrusion of petty merchandize. And, following the course of the river downwards, you can see in the meadows among the woods the ruins of the Abbey of St. Agatha, at Easby. A few miles further, and the stream flows past Catterick, the *Cattaraconium* of the Romans, and Bolton-on-Swale, the burial-place of Old Jenkins.

“On leaving the castle, make your way down the path which runs round the face of the precipice below the walls, yet high enough above the river for pleasing views; a good place for an evening stroll. Then descend to a lower level, and look back from the new bridge, near the railway station; you will be charmed with the singularly picturesque view of the town, clustered all along the hill-top, and terminated by the imposing mass of ruins, and the lordly keep. And there is something to be seen near at hand; the station, built in Gothic style, pleasantly situated amongst the trees; St. Martin's Cell, founded more than seven hundred years ago, now sadly dilapidated, and used as a cow-stall. Beyond, on the slope of the hill, stands the parish church, with a fine lofty tower; and near it are the old grammar-school, famous for good scholars; and the Tate Testimonial, a handsome Gothic edifice, with cloisters, where the boys play in rainy weather. It was in that churchyard that Herbert Knowles wrote the poem,—

Methinks it is good to be here,

which has long kept his name in memory.”

From this Castle-hill you have pleasant views of gardens and meadows below; of Easby Abbey, amid its noble trees, near the river, which was, for centuries, the burial-place of the Scropes, who became possessors of Easby not long after the death of Roald, constable of Richmond, founder of the abbey, in 1152. In the meadow beyond you also see the gate-house mantled with ivy, and Easby's pretty little church between the gate-house and the ruins of the abbey. But, without wandering farther, we may with Walter White "take another stroll" on the path under the castle, thinking of the ancient legend, and wishing for a peep at the mysterious vault where King Arthur's warriors lie asleep. Long, long ago, a man, while wandering about the hill, was conducted into an underground vault by a mysterious personage, and there he saw to his amazement a great multitude lying in slumber. Ere he recovered, his guide placed in his hands a horn and a sword. He drew the blade half out of the sheath, when lo! every sleeper stirred as if about to awake, and the poor mortal, terror-stricken, loosed his hold; the sword slid back, and the opportunity for release was lost, to recur no more for many a long day. The unlucky wight heard as he crept forth a bitter voice crying:—

Potter, Potter Thompson!
If thou had either drawn
The sword, or blown that horn,
Thoud'st been the luckiest man
That ever was born.

With its history and its legends, and its beautiful situation and fine surrounding country, Richmond Castle stands a distinguished ruin amongst the brave old remains of the feudal days of England; and what a healthy place it must be! That reference to "Old Jenkins" is full of moment in the history of longevity; for he was but one of a number of men who, in his time (the reigns of Henry VIII., Edward VI., Mary, and

Elizabeth) lived beyond their hundred years, in that neighbourhood; and, long as is this article, we ought not to close it without the fitting testimony to its healthiness by a short notice of Old Jenkins and his old associates. We have the following account of these living antiquities by Mrs. Anne Saville, who lived at Bolton-on-Swale in the reign of Elizabeth:—

“When I came to live at Bolton, I was told several particulars of the great age of Henry Jenkins; but I believed little of the story for many years, till one day, he coming to beg an alms, I desired him to tell me truly how old he was. He paused a little, and then said, that to the best of his remembrance he was about 162 or 163; and I asked what kings he remembered. He said Henry VIII. I asked what public thing he could longest remember. He said, Flodden Field. I asked whether the king was there. He said, No: he was in France, and the Earl of Surrey was general. I asked him how old he might be then. He said, ‘I believe I might be between ten and twelve; for,’ said he, ‘I was sent to Northallerton with a horse-load of arrows, but they sent a bigger boy from thence to the army with them.’ All this agreed with the history of that time; for bows and arrows were then used; the earl he named was general; and King Henry VIII. was then at Tournay. And yet it is observable that this Jenkins could neither read nor write. There were also four or five in the same parish that were reputed all of them to be a hundred years old, or within two or three years of it, and they all said he was an elderly man ever since they knew him; for he was born in another parish, and before any registers were in churches, as it is said. He told me then, too, that he was butler to the Lord Conyers, and remembered the abbot of Fountains Abbey very well before the dissolution of the monasteries.

“Henry Jenkins departed this life, December 8, 1670, at

Ellerton-upon-Swale, in Yorkshire. The Battle of Flodden Field was fought September 9, 1513, and he was twelve years old when Flodden Field was fought; so that this Henry Jenkins lived 169 years; viz., sixteen years longer than Old Parr, and was, it is supposed, the oldest man born upon the ruins of the postdiluvian world.

“In the last century of his life he was a fisherman, and used to trade in the streams; his diet was coarse and sour, and towards the latter end of his days he begged up and down. He has sworn in Chancery and other courts to above 140 years’ memory, and was often at the assizes at York, whither he generally went on foot; and I have heard some of the country gentlemen affirm that he frequently swam in the rivers after he was past the age of a hundred years. In the King’s Remembrancer’s Office, in the Exchequer, is a record of a deposition in a cause by English bill between Anthony Clarke and Smirkson, taken in 1665, at Kettering in Yorkshire, where Henry Jenkins, of Ellerton-upon-Swale, labourer, aged 157 years, was produced, and deposed as a witness. About seventy years after his death, a monument was erected at Bolton, by a subscription of the parishioners, to perpetuate the memory of this remarkable man. Upon it was engraved this inscription: — ‘Blush not, marble, to rescue from oblivion the memory of Henry Jenkins, a person of obscure birth, but of a life truly memorable; for he was enriched with the goods of nature, if not of fortune, and happy in the duration, if not variety of his enjoyments; and though the partial world despised and disregarded his low and humble state, the equal eye of Providence beheld and blessed it with a patriarch’s health and length of days, to teach mistaken man these blessings are entailed on temperance, a life of labour, and a mind at ease. He lived to the amazing age of 169. Was interred here December 16th, 1670, and had this justice done to his memory, 1743.’ ”

Camden has fallen into an error regarding Jenkins, making him a resident of the neighbourhood of Bolton Castle in Ure-dale, instead of Bolton-on-Swale. The fact is stated in the above notice of him ; that he lived and died at Ellerton, which is near Bolton-on-Swale, and was buried at this Bolton. Jenkins is said in this account to have remembered the abbot of Fountains. He had good reason ; for it is stated that when he used to be sent to that great abbey on messages by Lord Conyers, the abbot always gave him, “ besides wassail, a quarter of a yard of roast-beef for his dinner, and a great black-jack of strong beer.” He is said, too, to have shared the dole of the monks of Jervaux to poor travellers, and therefore had seen that splendid monastery in all its glory.

In concluding our notice of Richmond Castle, it ought not to be omitted that the whole country round is as full of historical reminiscences as it is of natural beauty. In Coverdale was born the venerable reformer of that name, who, with Tyndall and others, produced our earliest complete edition of the Bible. At Bolton Abbey, Mary Queen of Scots was at one time confined. There, too, lived those bold Scropes, one of whom was Chancellor to Richard II., another fought stoutly at Flodden Field, and a third of whom joined the Pilgrimage of Grace on the dissolution of religious houses. Of the Lords Scrope of Masham, one was at the battle of the Standard, and another beheaded for conspiring against Henry V. Then there is that grand old ruin of Middleham, the seat of the Nevilles, and one of the many castles of Warwick the King-maker, and where he confined Edward IV. after he had surprised him in his camp at Wolvey. There, consigning him to the safe custody of his brother, the Archbishop of York, that prelate, unfit custodian of so slippery a subject, suffered him to hunt in the park, and so found that Edward had ridden off, and soon appeared in London. Subtly did Warwick lay his nets

to re-catch him, the Archbishop of York inviting Edward, and Clarence, his brother, to supper at his manor of Moor in Hertfordshire, when, just as the king was washing his hands before sitting down to table, some one whispered in his ear that an armed band was lying in wait for him near the house. Once more Edward got secretly to horse, galloped through the night to Windsor, and after many an adventure, and a flight abroad, lived to slay the great king-maker at the battle of Barnet, and break up his overgrown power for ever. In this same Middleham was born Edward, the only son of Richard III. And there is Topcliffe, too, just on the border of Richmondshire, where the Earl of Northumberland was lying in bed when the rumour came that his enemies were about to seize him for his intended share in the rising of the North in Elizabeth's time; and he rose hastily and joined the Earl of Westmoreland to become in reality a fugitive in Scotland, and to see England again only as a betrayed guest, betrayed by the Douglas, and then led to the block. But the whole land is sown with stirring events, and we can only say further that Richmond Castle stands like a fine historic picture, set in a fitting frame of great and golden memories.



Byland Abbey.



IN a pleasant valley near Coxwold, in the Wolds of Yorkshire, stands the ruined but still beautiful Abbey of Byland. The style of the remains is peculiar, but extremely light and graceful. These consist of the west front, and one end of the transept. Every part of these remains bears testimony to erection at different periods. The central door has a richly cusped arch, with several receding pillars and mouldings. Above it is a row of light lancet arches, with a line of similar semi-arches running above them. Higher still is the lower half of a noble circular window. On one side of this main structure remain a heavy round-headed doorway, and a round-headed window above it, both consisting of several pillars and mouldings, evidently of the oldest date in the building. On the left hand is a richly-wrought lancet-headed doorway, and this is all that now remains: sufficient, however, to denote that the monastery, when perfect, was extremely elegant. The date assigned to its first erection accords with the older, round-arched portion, being of the period when the remains of Saxon had not yet disappeared from Norman buildings.

Byland is said to have been founded by Roger de Mowbray, a minor in the wardship of King Stephen, at the suggestion of his mother, Gundreda de Mowbray. The history of the

founding was preserved by Philip, the third abbot. The occasion for the erection of Byland Abbey was to establish twelve monks and Gerold their abbot, who had been obliged to flee from Furness Abbey, in Lancashire, by the incursions of the Scots. They had gone first to York, where they were hospitably received by Archbishop Thurstan, who recommended them to Roger de Mowbray. Gundreda, the mother of Roger, and the widow of Nigil de Albine, entertained them for some time at the castle of Thresk, and then sent them to join Robert de Alneto, her near relative, a Norman, living as hermit at Hode, where she supplied them with provisions. Finding, however, that the transmission of these provisions became very inconvenient, she requested her son to give them his vaccary, or compasture, at Combe, and all the land at Wildon, Scakeldon, and Ergham, for their support. Whilst there, the abbot went to Savigny, in Normandy, to procure exemption from their former subjection to Furness, which was done by a general chapter of the order; and the abbot returned to York, where he died, and was buried at Hode. In his place, Roger, the sub-cellarer, one of the monks who left Furness, was made abbot. The brethren remained at Hode till A.D. 1143, when they found the spot unsuitable for the founding of a monastery, and at the request of their patroness, Gundreda, Roger de Mowbray, her son, gave them the church and town of Biland, or Bella-landa-super-Moram, near the river Rye, and nearly opposite to the Abbey of Rievaulx. This would have been a charming situation, but, being within sound of each other's bells, it did not agree with their notions of monastic seclusion, and they again removed to Stocking, near Coxwold, under Blakhow Hill. At this place they repaired an old church, and built a cloister and other houses; and now they seemed to have found a permanent abode. They continued there for thirty years,

but these were by no means years of peace and uninterrupted religious contemplation. The abbots of Calder and Furness, notwithstanding the exemption which they had obtained from their jurisdiction, commenced law proceedings to compel them again to submission. These vexatious proceedings were not brought to a close till the year 1155, the first year of the reign of Henry II. They were then determined in their favour by the abbot of Rievaulx, who had been appointed judge, and the Archbishop of York took them under his direct protection.

Being now at ease, the monks selected a yet more eligible site for their monastery, and finally raised it in a valley a little more to the eastward, having drained the marshes and cleared a large tract of woodland. The abbey, of which we now have the remains, was completed and entered upon A. D. 1177, 23 Hen. II. It stood near to Burtoft and Bersclive, between Whitaker and Cambe Hill, a pleasant and retired situation. It was dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and continued to flourish till the dissolution.

Byland was not one of the abbeys which ever raised itself into princely state amongst the monasteries of England. It was not one of the mitred establishments, whose heads assumed the state of nobles, and attended parliaments with the retinue of princes; but it had many privileges, and was a well-to-do and independent community. The Biland which the monks had left near Rievaulx was thenceforth known as Old Byland: this new Byland was distant about five miles from Rievaulx; and after crossing a moor, as you descended a very steep hill, the prospect of a very fine country opened upon you, with this abbey and the village near it. Henry II., Henry III., and Henry VI. granted especial privileges to Byland. It was exempted from all tolls, pontage, &c., from paying any sort of gelds, scutage, or hidage, from performing any duties of the county, wapen-

take, or riding, and from all aids and secular service. The monks were free in all cities, boroughs, markets, fairs, bridges, and ports, in England and Normandy, and had liberty of holding courts of their own, with *fac, foc, thal, theam, infangentheof*, and *utfangentheof*. They could be sued by no magistrate except the king or his chief justice. They had free warren over all their demesnes, and no person could intrude upon them. Henry III. made them free of ward-penny, over-penny, thething-penny, hengwith, flemwith, blodewite, leirwith, flemefrith, grithbreth, forestal, hamfokne, heinfare, and all service and secular exactions. He extended their right of trying causes to their manors of Sutton and Clifton, in Yorkshire, and at their manor of Wardcope, in Westmoreland; and Henry VI. gave them a grant of all waifs, strays, and forfeiture of felons within their lands. Dugdale gives a long list of their possessions in different places. At the dissolution, the gross revenue of the abbey was £295 5s. 4d.; the clear income, £238 9s. 4d. It was a prosperous abbey of an unambitious kind. No great events are recorded in its annals, nor does it seem to have produced, or had the presence of, any men of pre-eminently distinguished talents; but one may, from its substance and its pleasant situation, fairly suppose it a favoured specimen of monastic retreat.

The visitor to Byland will not fail to ascend the hill and take a glance at Coxwold, the church and parsonage of Lawrence Sterne. There he will find the same pulpit in the church in which Sterne preached; and on the right hand side of the road—the last house, I think, on that side, on the way towards Byland,—he will see the same house which Sterne inhabited. There is a parsonage now adjoining the churchyard; but, at this little house of two small rooms in front, and of two stories high, the humourist lived. The landlady of the village inn was fond of



BYLAND ABBEY.

talking of Sterne. "A very clever man," she said; "a very clever man, indeed; but he had a daughter much cleverer than himself." "Really," I said; "in what way did she display this extraordinary ability?" "In an extraordinary way," responded the landlady; "by riding about the village on her father's horse with her face to the tail." This, of course, she explained, was when she was a girl of eleven or twelve; but the good woman was not by any means jesting. This feat of equestrianism was in her eyes an exhibition of talent far greater than her father's. What her idea of literary fame was we may imagine.

She assured us, also, that the village doctor lived at Sterne's old house—"a very civil man, a very civil man, indeed; and she was sure he would have much pleasure in showing it to us." Accordingly my friend, who on that occasion was driving me in his carriage to Rievaulx Abbey, drew up at the door. I knocked, and was admitted by a maid, who assured me that her master was at home, and would see me in a minute. Whereupon she showed me into a small front room, in which Sterne is said to have written, and there I waited some time. Anon the servant returned, and said her master was coming directly. A while after she returned once more, and asked my name. I gave her my card, and added that I was sorry to trouble her master, as my object was merely to see Sterne's abode; and again she made her appearance to say that her master was engaged and could not see me. The village Galen had discovered that I was not a hoped-for patient, and "the very civil man,—very civil man, indeed," was not civil enough to gratify the curiosity of a stranger by allowing him to see a cottage in which there was literally nothing worth seeing. However, I had been in Sterne's house, and discovered that all his endeavours to inculcate benevolence of sentiment had not penetrated very deep into the nature of his successor, so I adjourned to the church. The sexton attended with the key, and I entered. It is a lofty, plain church, and there stood the old pulpit in which the author of "Tristram Shandy" used to preach. What, however, particularly attracted my attention was a solitary swallow which was flitting about, and giving an occasional twitter as it fought a way out. I looked round; all the windows were closed; there was no way for it to escape, and I immediately thought of Sterne's starling, which was always plaintively crying "I can't get out."

The sexton said it had, no doubt, flown in on Sunday, when

the windows were open, so that it must then (the middle of the week) have been flitting about and vainly seeking egrets for several days. "Good man," said I, "pull open one or two of your windows, and let it escape, for Heaven's sake !" And what was the man's cool answer ? "Oh, it will die of itself, if we let it alone."

And that was in Sterne's church, in the very front of his pulpit, not many yards from the place where he probably penned that very pathetic incident of the starling, with its cry, so full of pitiful appeal, "I can't get out ! I can't get out !" Such is the effect of the finest touches of genius, of the happiest incentives to humanity. Who could have believed that such an incident could possibly have happened where Sterne had penned those words which have thrilled so many a youthful bosom, never again to be forgotten ? The sexton had only to pull a cord to open a window high aloft, no doubt the one through which the swallow had entered ; but he was reluctant to do it, because, he said, it would let others in ; and though he did it at my earnest instance, I had a feeling that the moment my back was turned he would close it again, without giving the bird time to find its way out. I afterwards felt much vexed with myself that I did not go to the parsonage and ask the clergyman to see that the sexton did let the poor creature "get out."

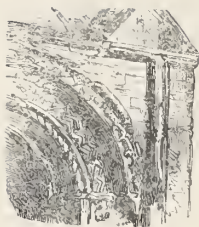
As we returned through the village on the following day, the Medicus was leaning over his gate as we passed. He was a man of middle age, with a vulgar air, and considerable quantity of whisker about his face ; and he had evidently taken a peep at us the day before, and recognised us as the persons who would have liked to see Sterne's house ; for he grinned broadly, and evidently with much self-gratulation, as we drove by, evidently thinking he had done a very clever thing in doing a discourtesy.

Such were the revelations of the tone of mind and the scale of enlightenment in the place where Sterne drew the picture of Uncle Toby and Corporal Trim, where he taught us to respect human sorrows in Lieutenant Le Fevre, the blight of the heart in poor Maria, and the sufferings of animals in the captive starling. As a prophet has no honour in his own country, in that country his teachings are, of course, usually thrown away. Here, instead of feeling, there seemed an utter want of it ; instead of the kindliness of Uncle Toby and Corporal Trim, churlish rudeness prevailed, and the highest idea of cleverness was that of a romping girl riding with her face to a horse's tail !

The monastery of Fors, in Yorkshire, was subject to Byland.



Jedburgh Abbey.



THE abbey of Jedburgh was raised by David I. of Scotland, that founder of so many religious houses, in a very pleasant and picturesque, but very dangerous neighbourhood. It was always exposed to the inroads of the hostile English, and suffered, as it was sure to do, frequently and grievously at their hands. It stood on the river Jed, near the junction of the Teviot with that river. The ballad of the "Hermit of Warkworth" well pictures the scenes that were for ages continually occurring in the fair border-lands of England and Scotland.

Lord Percy and his barons bold
They fix upon a day,
To scour the marches late oppressed,
And Scottish wrongs repay.

The knights assembled on the hills,
A thousand horse and more :
Brave Widdrington, then sunk in years,
The Percy standard bore.

Tweed's limpid current soon they pass,
And range the Borders round,
Down the green slopes of Teviotdale
Their bugle-horns resound.

And soon turned out to meet them the stout Scottish Borderers ; on this ground, as the ballad of “ Chevy Chase ” has it,—

All men of pleafant Tivydale,
Faft by the river Tweed.

A very pleafant dale was Teviotdale, but rather a trying place to live in whilst thefe fifticuff days remained. “ The vicinage of this abbey,” fays Grofe, “ to the Borders, fubjected it to the depredations of every incurfion or invafion. Thefe were, in general, carried on with the greateft cruelty imaginable ; neither age, fex, nor profeflion affording the leaft protection, the victors marking their footfteps with fire and fword.

“ The ravages committed in the different incurfions of the Englifh had fo damaged this houfe, and reduced its income, as to render it infufficient for the lodging and maintenance of the canons. King Edward I. therefore fent feveral of them to different religious houfes of the fame order in England, there to be maintained till this houfe could be repaired and reftored to better circumftances. One of the writs is ftill extant by which a canon, named Ingelram de Colonia, was fent to the convent of Bridlington, in Yorkfhire.”

The abbey of Jedburgh had two cells, one at Reftenote, in Angusfhire, and the other at Canonby, fituated on the river Efke, in Efkedale, in Roxburghfhire ; if poffible, a more unlucky fituation than that of Jedburgh. It was frequently plundered and burned by the Englifh, and the prior and canons obliged to flee during the heat of the war, by which means their records were fo often deftroyed, that an accurate account of them is impoffible. The firft monks, who were canons regular, were brought to Jedburgh by David I., from the abbey of St.

Quintin's, at Beauvais, in France. Notwithstanding all the ravages of the Border wars, at the dissolution the revenue of the abbey, with that of its two cells at Restenote and Canonby, amounted to £1274 10s.

The abbey was erected into a temporal lordship in favour of Sir Andrew Kerr of Fernihurst, ancestor to the Marquis of Lothian, who was in high favour with James VI., who made him a peer, with the title of Lord Jedburgh. The abbey and estate yet remain the property of the Marquis of Lothian. The ruins of the abbey are still very fine, and show what the building must have been before it was so frequently battered and burned by the English invaders. Besides the attacks of Edward I. and Edward III., the Earl of Surrey, in 1523, stormed and burned Jedburgh, and along with it the abbey. In his dispatch to Henry VIII., he particularly notices the stout resistance of the abbey, which, he says, held them till "twoo houres within night," but does not specify when the attack on the abbey commenced. Notwithstanding, one author after another has stated that the storming of the abbey lasted "two hours;" an evident mistake, founded on the Earl of Surrey's phrase that it lasted to within two hours of the night.

In this same dispatch he informs us that "the towne was much better than I weened it had been, for there was twoo tymes moo houses therein then in Berwicke, and well buylded with many honest and fair houses therein, sufficiente to have lodged M horsemen in garnyson, and six good towres therein; which towne and towres be clenely destroyed, burnt, and throwen downe. Undoubtedly there was noo journey made into Scotlande, in noo mann's day levying, with soo few a nombre, that is recownted to be soo high an enterprife as this, both with thies contremen and Scottishmen, nor of truthe so much hurt doon."

This would seem a sufficient destruction for some time ; but afterwards the Earl of Hertford committed as great ravages there ; and so completely was the place spoiled, that the abbey, in common with the other monasteries in Teviotdale, had ceased to be inhabited at the dissolution. Nor was it from the English alone that these ill-fated Borders received such treatment. The men of Teviotdale were famous for their martial propensities, and were as ready to make raids and plunderings as their enemies, and, therefore, the less to be pitied. "As for the humours of the people of Teviotdale," says Scott of Harden, in the Macfarlane MSS., "they were both strong and warlike, as being inured to war and daily incursions ; and the most part of the heritors of the country gave out their lands to their tenants for military attendance, upon rentals, and reserved only some few mainfes for their own sustenance, which were laboured by their servants besides their service. They paid an entry, a herauld, and a small rent-duty ; for there were no rents raised here that were considerable till King James went into England ; yea, all along the Border."

This gives a dismal picture of the state of the border-country till the union of the two kingdoms under one crown. Alternate invasions, burnings, massacres, and every kind of desolation ; so that none but men fond of war could live in it, and no profit could be derived from the lands except what consisted in mere defence against invaders. These men, especially those of Jedburgh, fought with axes, which were called Jeddart axes, or Jeddart staves. Scott, in his "Lay of the Last Minstrel," describes the warriors of Brankfome Hall, as

With Jedwood axe at fiddle-bow.

He says, in his introduction to the "Border Minstrelsy," that, upon the arrival of the ill-fated Mary in her native country,

she found the Borderers in a state of great disorder. The exertions of her natural brother, afterwards the famous Regent Murray, were necessary to restore some degree of tranquillity. He marched to Jedburgh, executed twenty or thirty of the transgressors, burnt many houses, and brought a number of prisoners to Edinburgh. No doubt, on these occasions, the military commanders, come from which side they would, retorted on the Jedburgh men what was popularly called "Jeddard justice," hanging them first and trying them after. The unfortunate Queen Mary, finding that the severities of her brother, the Regent, had not quelled the fierce spirit of the Borderers, appointed the Earl of Bothwell commissioner for that purpose; but his unprincipled and licentious conduct only embroiled that wretched district worse. On this, she herself advanced to the Border, determining to hold a court at Jedburgh for the settlement of the peace and the punishment of the offenders; but, hearing that Bothwell was severely wounded in attempting to seize John Elliott of the Parke, a notorious freebooter, in an evil hour for her reputation and happiness, she mounted her horse, and rode to Hermitage Castle (where Bothwell lay) by a circuitous route, and returned the same day, a distance, altogether, of nearly fifty miles. A dangerous morass, still called the Queen's Mire, is pointed out on the way, where she had a narrow escape for her life. On her return to Jedburgh she was seized with a dangerous fever, and lay ill for several weeks at an old mansion still pointed out in the town, and where for some time her death was expected.

The confusion upon the Borders became more and more lawless; and when the rising of the North took place, and the Earls of Northumberland and Westmoreland fled into Scotland, Northumberland was betrayed by Douglas into the hands of Murray the Regent, but Westmoreland was received by the

Laird of Ferniehurft, clofe to Jedburgh, and many of the Teviotdale men were greatly scandalized that the Lords Ferniehurft and Hume had not forcibly refcued Northumberland from the Regent. Murray marched towards Jedburgh to feize Weftmoreland and his followers at Ferniehurft ; but, as he approached Jedburgh, his men, who had no fancy for the work, nearly all deferted him, and he was obliged to return. In fact, the gentry of the Border, the Humes, Granges, Buccleuchs, Ferniehurfts, Johnftones, Armftrongs, Maxwells, Kerrs, Jardines, and others, ruled on the Borders, and fet both their own government and that of England at defiance. Sir Ralph Sadler, who was pofted at Berwick by Queen Elizabeth to watch the movements of the Scotch court, and to corrupt all the nobles, went amongft thefe bold Border chiefs, and gives fome lively descriptions in his defpatches of their mode of life ; their drinking, gaming, riding, and open contempt of all authority. During the minority of James VI., the daring of the Border chiefs rofe to an enormous pitch. Buccleuch, with his followers, on one occafion, affifted by Lord Claud Hamilton, feized the Regent Lennox, and were very near getting poffeffion of the young king in Stirling. Failing in this, they killed the Regent. Morton, who fucceeded Lennox as Regent, managed to fow diffenfion amongft the Border chiefs, and made an attempt to furprife Jedburgh and Ferniehurft, but was repulfed. After the death of Morton the full licenfe of the Border revived. A fon of the Earl of Bedford was, in 1585, killed in one of their frays by Kerr of Ferniehurft, which, at the demand of Elizabeth, brought that doughty chief to a dungeon, where he died. After that, Francis Stuart, an illegitimate fon of James V., who had been created Earl of Bothwell, on the forfeiture of the infamous Bothwell, hufband of Queen Mary, made great difturbance on the Border ; he was

highly popular with the men of Jedburgh and Teviotdale, and even attempted to seize the person of James VI. in his palace of Holyrood. In the meantime, the chiefs in the neighbourhood of Jedburgh and the Middle Marches were fighting with each other for the provostry of Jedburgh, in which affray Kerr of Ancram, a follower of Ferniehurft, was killed. Such was the savage condition of this neighbourhood down to the very epoch of James VI.'s ascent of the English throne. Robert Carr, the infamous favourite of James I., was third son of Sir Thomas Kerr, of Ferniehurft Castle, which is only a mile and a half from Jedburgh.

The castle of Jedburgh was so formidable a protection to the insubordinate Borderers in these disturbed times, that in the beginning of the sixteenth century the Government resolved to destroy it; and the work appeared so enormous, from its ponderous strength, that it was proposed to lay a tax of two pennies on every hearth in Scotland to defray the expense. On the site was raised the county gaol, which is still called the castle. A singular occurrence took place in a cell of this castle, in the reign of Charles I., which led to a yet more remarkable one, indicative of the still lawless condition of the times. We give it in the words of Sir Walter Scott:—

“In the reign of Charles I., when the moss-trooping practices were not entirely discontinued, the tower of Gilnockie, in the parish of Cannoby, was occupied by William Armstrong, called, for distinction's sake, Christie's Will, a lineal descendant of the famous John Armstrong, of Gilnockie, executed by James VI. The hereditary love of plunder had descended to this person with the family mansion; and, upon some marauding party, he was seized and imprisoned in the tolbooth of Jedburgh. The Earl of Traquair, Lord High Treasurer, happening to visit Jedburgh, and knowing Christie's

Will, inquired the cause of his confinement. Will replied that he was imprisoned for stealing two *tethers* (halters); but, upon being more closely interrogated, acknowledged that there were two *delicate colts* at the end of them. The joke, such as it was, amused the earl, who exerted his interest, and succeeded in releasing Will from bondage. Some time afterwards, a lawsuit of importance to Lord Traquair was to be decided in the Court of Session, and there was every reason to believe that judgment would turn upon the voice of the presiding judge, who has a casting vote, in case of an equal division among his brethren. The opinion of the President was unfavourable to Lord Traquair, and the point was, therefore, to keep him out of the way when the question should be tried. In this dilemma, the earl had recourse to Christie's Will, who at once offered his services to kidnap the President. Upon due scrutiny he found it was the judge's practice to take the air on horseback on the Sands of Leith, without an attendant. In one of these excursions, Christie's Will, who had long watched his opportunity, ventured to accost the President and engage him in conversation. His address and language were so amusing, that he decoyed the President into an unfrequented and furzy common, called the Frigate Whins, where, riding suddenly up to him, he pulled him from his horse, muffled him in a large cloak, which he had provided, and rode off with the luckless judge trussed up behind him. Will crossed the country with great expedition, by paths known only to persons of his description, and deposited his weary and terrified burden in an old castle in Annandale, called the Tower of Graham. The judge's horse being found, it was concluded that he had thrown his rider into the sea, his friends went into mourning, and a successor was appointed to his office. Meanwhile, the poor President spent a heavy time in the vault of the castle. He

was imprisoned and solitary, receiving his food through an aperture in the wall, and never hearing the sound of a human voice, save when a shepherd called his dog by the name of *Batty*, and when a female domestic called upon *Maudge*, the cat. These, he concluded, were invocations of spirits; for he held himself to be in the dungeon of a forcerer. At length, after three months had elapsed, the lawsuit was decided in favour of Lord Traquair, and Will was directed to set the President at liberty. Accordingly, he entered the vault at the dead of the night, seized the President, muffled him once more in the cloak, without speaking a single word, and, using the same mode of transportation, conveyed him to Leith Sands, and set down the astonished judge at the very spot where he had taken him up. The joy of his friends, and the less agreeable surprise of his successor, may easily be conceived, when he appeared in court to reclaim his office and honours. All embraced his own persuasion, that he had been spirited away by witchcraft; nor could he himself be convinced of the contrary, until, many years afterwards, happening to travel in Annandale, his ears were saluted once more with the sounds of *Maudge* and *Batty*, the only notes which had solaced his long confinement. This led to a discovery of the whole story; but, in those disorderly times, it was only laughed at as a fair *ruse de guerre*.

“Wild and strange as this tradition may seem, there is little doubt of its foundation in fact. The judge upon whose person this extraordinary stratagem was practised, was Sir Alexander Gibson, Lord Durie, collector of the reports well known in the Scottish law under the title of *Durie's Decisions*. He was advanced to the station of an ordinary Lord of Session, 10th of July, 1621, and died at his own house of Durie, July, 1646. Betwixt these periods, this whimsical adventure

muft have happened ; a date which corresponds with that of the tradition."

Another and the popular version of this extraordinary abduction is given in the ballad of *Christie's Will*. There the Borderer, being engaged by Lord Traquair,—

He lighted at Lord Durie's door,
And there he knocked moft manfullie ;
And up and fpake Lord Durie fae stout,
"What tidings, thou ftalwart groom, to me?"

"The faireft lady in Teviotdale
Has fent, moft reverent fir, for thee,
She pleas at the Seffion for her land 'a' haill,
And fain ſhe would plead her caufe to thee."

"But how can I to that lady ride,
With faving of my dignitie?"
"O, a curch and mantle ye may wear,
And in my cloak fall muffled be."

Wi' curch on head and cloak owre face,
He mounted the judge on a palfrey fine :
He rode away, a right round pace,
And *Christie's Will* held the bridle reyn.

The Lothian Edge they were not o'er,
When they heard bugles bauldly ring,
And, hunting over Middleton Moor,
They met, I ween, our noble king.

When Willie looked upon the king,
I wot a frightened man was he !
But even auld Durie was startled mair,
For tyning of his dignitie.

The king he croffed himfelf, I wis,
When as the pair came riding bye—
"An uglier crone, and a fturdier loon
I think were never feen with eye!"

Willie has hied to the tower of Græme,
He took auld Durie on his back,
He ſhot him down to the dungeon deep,
Which garred his auld banes gie mony a crack.

For nineteen days and nineteen nights,
 Of sun, or moon, or midnight stern,
 Auld Durie never saw a blink,
 The lodging was so dark and dern.

He thought the warlocks o' the rosy-cross
 Had fanged him in their nets fae fast ;
 Or that the gipsies' glamour'd gang
 Had laired his learning at the last.

Having now recounted the incidents of stormy times which led to the destruction of the castle of Jedburgh, and to the ruin of the abbey, which was burnt by the Earl of Hereford in 1545, we will take a cursory glance at the remains of this once magnificent monastery, as they yet exist. The chapter-house, cloisters, and other parts have perished, and the church alone survives, and, in the form of a cross, extends from east to west 230 feet. The choir is much dilapidated, no doubt from being of a much greater age than the rest. The two lower stories consist of massive pillars and semicircular arches, with the diagonal or zigzag mouldings of Saxon architecture ; whilst the upper windows are of early English, having been evidently added at a more recent period. The north transept is entire, presenting traceried pointed windows, which are especially of great size and beauty. Above the intersection of the transepts with the nave and choir, a large square tower rises on four pillars to the height of 100 feet, surmounted by projecting battlements, and crowned with turrets and pinnacles. The nave, measuring a hundred feet in length, presents on each side three tiers of arches ; the first, opening into the aisle, consists of pointed arches, deeply recessed and richly moulded, supported by clustered columns, with sculptured capitals ; the second, which opened into the galleries, consists of beautifully moulded semicircular aisles, with two pointed arches inserted in each ; and the third, of elegantly pointed windows. The lofty western

front possesses a Norman door of uncommon beauty, the archway exhibiting a profusion of ornamented mouldings supported by slender receding pillars to the depth of seven feet and a half. Above it is a large window with a semicircular arch, flanked by small blank pointed arches, on long, slender shafts, and this surmounted by a beautiful St. Catherine's Wheel. On the south side of the choir there is a chapel, which was formerly used as a grammar-school, and there the poet Thomson was educated. But the chief beauty of the building is the Norman door which formed the southern entrance to the church from the cloisters. This is unrivalled in Scotland for the symmetry of its proportions and the elegance of its workmanship. Its sculptured mouldings, springing from slender shafts, with capitals richly wreathed, present the figures of men, animals, and flowers of the most admirable delicacy and minuteness. Altogether, the late Archibald Elliot, architect, pronounced this, in a statistical account of Scotland, the most perfect and beautiful specimen of the Saxon and Early Gothic in Scotland.

The neighbourhood of Jedburgh is well worthy of possessing beautiful remains of the old times and their arts. The town lies on ground rising from the west bank of the Jed, and is surrounded by pleasant gardens and cheerful villas scattered amongst them and their orchards. Around rise wooded slopes, and at a distance is descried the dark bulk of Carter Fell. Above the castle hill rises also the Dunion; northward is seen Hartrigg, the seat of Lord Campbell; and farther off the heights of Penilheugh, with its Wellington monument. The neighbouring dale of Teviot is extremely fine, and varied by its hills and slopes, and masses of wood, remains of the ancient forest. The Jed, as well as the Teviot, charmed Burns, who visited Jedburgh in 1789, and sung of "Eden scenes on crystal Jed." Ferniehurst Castle, now in ruins, occupying

a steep bank overhanging the Jed, and enriched with ancient woods, is a fine object. On the Jed, at Southdean, under Carter Fell, lived the poet Thomson's father, when the embryo bard was only two years old, and there he spent his



JEDBURGH: WESTERN GATEWAY.

boyhood. From this place his father sent him, mounted behind a servant man, to Edinburgh, to the university; but the town was by no means to the taste of the author of "The Seasons:" he had found his way back to the manse on foot before the man had got there on horseback, and declared to

the astonished family, that he was sure he could study as well in Southdean as in Edinburgh. Dr. Somerville, the historian of William and Anne, was for more than fifty years minister of Jedburgh; and there was born the celebrated Mrs. Somer-



JEDBURGH : SOUTH PORCH.

ville. It is the native place, also, of Sir David Brewster; and with these names we bid adieu to

The hoary peaks of Scotland, that give birth
To Teviot's stream, to Annan, Tweed, and Clyde.

Dryburgh Abbey.

Let us explore the ruined abbey's choir ;
Its fretted roof and windows of rich tracery,
The sculptured tombs o'ergrown with shrubs and brambles,
Midst broken arches, graves, and gloomy vaults :
Or view the castle of some ancient thane,
Its hall, its dungeons, and embattled towers,
Mantled with ivy.



E are now come into the immediate vicinity of the great romancer of Abbotsford, and to the place which, for its beauty, as well as some ancestral associations, he chose for his burial-place. To both these influences—those of nature and of ancestry—no man was ever more subject. He raised his great fame on their united strength, he broke down the fair fortune which his genius, employed on such themes, had won, and darkened his latter days, and taxed his failing strength, in the endeavour to confer on his name and children higher honours, rather secular than literary. With these few failings, what a genial glory envelopes his memory, and what a like glory of all rainbow hues has he cast over the whole country which surrounded his favourite abode ! He has collected all that history, tradition, ballad, and legend have bequeathed to this part of Scotland, and has added new charms to them. The personal memory of the great romancer, with all his poetic and historic tastes, is

now for ever interwoven with the scenes and stories, chivalrous or monastic, that he loved.

Dryburgh lies amid the scenes in which he not only took such peculiar delight, but which furnished him themes both for his poems and romances, and which were rich in those old songs and narratives of Border feats and raids which he has preserved in his *Border Minstrelsy*. Melrose, the Eildon Hills, the haunt of Thomas of Ercildoune, Jedburgh, Yetholm, the Cowdenknowes, the Yarrow, and Ettrick, all lie on different sides within a circle of twenty miles, and most of them much nearer. Smailholme Tower, the scene of some of Scott's youthful days, and of his ballad of "The Eve of St. John," is also one of these. Grose tells us that "The ruins of Dryburgh Monastery are beautifully situated on a peninsula formed by the Tweed, ten miles above Kelso, and three below Melrose, on the south-western confine of the county of Berwick.

"St. Modan, who was one of the first Christian missionaries in Britain, was abbot of Dryburgh about the year 522, and made apostolical excursions into the north-western parts of Scotland, particularly in the districts of Stirling and Dumbarton, where his memory is still to be traced in popular tradition. There is some reason to conjecture that on this spot there had been more anciently a Druidical establishment, because the Celtic or Gaelic etymology of the name, Darach-bruach, or Darachbrugh, or Dryburgh, can be no otherwise interpreted than as the bank of the sacred grove of oaks, or the settlement of the Druids; and we know that it was usual for the first planters of Christianity in Pagan countries to choose such sacred haunts for the propagation of the gospel.

"Bede, however, in his ecclesiastical history, is silent on this subject; and, as more than a century had elapsed from the days of Modan to those of the venerable historian, it is probable that

the religious residence had been transferred to Melrose long before he composed his annals."

The new Abbey of Dryburgh had the credit of being founded in 1150, by David I., who was fond of the reputation of a founder of abbeys; Holyrood Abbey, Melrose Abbey, Kelso Abbey, Jedburgh Abbey, and others, having David I. stated as their founder. However it might be in other cases, and in some of them he was merely the restorer, the real founders of Dryburgh were Hugh de Morville, Lord of Lauderdale, and Constable of Scotland, and his wife, Beatrice de Beauchamp. They obtained a charter of confirmation from King David, in which he assumes the character of founder. The chronicle of Melrose, however, clearly shows who were the founders, and places David in his true position of patron only. The cemetery of the abbey was consecrated on St. Martin's Day, in the year of its completion, as the chronicle observes, "*ne dæmones in iis grassarentur.*" Hugh de Morville brought monks of the Premonstratensian order from Alnwick, to occupy it, in 1152. A monk of this house, Rodulphus de Strode, travelled through England, France, Germany, Italy, and Palestine. Dempster calls him a poet of eminence, and esteemed by Chaucer; that he was of the staunch old Catholic school is shown by his being a determined antagonist of Wycliffe and his doctrines.

Edward II., in his invasion of Scotland in 1323, burnt down Dryburgh Abbey, as he had done that of Melrose in the preceding year; and both these magnificent houses were restored principally at the cost of Robert Bruce. It was again destroyed by the English in 1544, by Sir George Bowes and Sir Brian Latoun, as Melrose was also. Amongst the most distinguished of its abbots we may mention Andrew Fordun, Bishop of Moray, and afterwards Archbishop of St.

Andrews, and ambaffador to France, and who held fome of the moft important offices under James IV. and James V. The favours conferred upon him were in proportion to his confequence in the ftate. Along with this Abbey of Dryburgh, he held in commendam thofe of Pittenweem, Coldingham, and Dunfermline. He refigned Dryburgh to James Ogilvie, of the family of Defkford. Ogilvie was alfo confiderably employed in offices of diplomacy, both at London and Paris.

Sir Walter Scott, in his Introduction to the Border Minftrelfy, gives fome curious particulars regarding this abbot from a MS. hiftory of the Halliburtons of Mertoun or Newmains. Thefe Halliburtons held fome lands under the abbey, about which contentions repeatedly took place betwixt the abbot and his tenants. In the rude fpirit of the times, they proceeded to settle their differences by arms inftead of by lawyers' tongues. Blood having been fhed between them, the king called the matter before him, and made an award dated at Stirling, in May, 1535, which was, that, as the Halliburtons were good fubjects of the king, ftout men-at-arms, and brave Borderers againft England, they fhould be left in quiet poffeffion of their lands, and fhould be good fervants to the venerable father the abbot, as their predeceffors had been to the venerable father's predeceffors. So eafy an award did not promife much peace, nor did it infure it. A marriage, indeed, was arranged betwixt the daughter—a natural daughter, we may fuppofe—of the abbot, Elizabeth Stewart, and Walter Halliburton, one of the family of Newmains; but this did not extinguifh the feud. The offspring of this marriage was one daughter, named Elizabeth Halliburton. To keep the property in the family, the Halliburtons determined to marry her to one of her coufins; but the arbitrary old abbot did not confent to this fcheme, but had his grandchild carried off by force, and married her to

Alexander Erskine, a relative of his own, and brother to the laird of Balgony. This daring act of the abbot kindled afresh the ancient feud betwixt the abbey and the Halliburtons, which continued to rage till the dissolution of the house.

The Erskines seemed to keep firm hold of the Abbey of Dryburgh, and Adam Erskine, one of Abbot James's successors, was, under George Buchanan, a sub-preceptor to James VI. This James I. of England dissolved the abbey in 1604, and conferred it and its lands, together with the abbeys and estates of Cambuskenneth and Inchmahornæ, on John Erskine, Earl of Mar, who was made, on this occasion, also Baron of Cardross, which barony was composed of the property of these three monasteries. In this line, Dryburgh descended to the lords of Buchan. The Earls of Buchan, at one time, sold it to the Halliburtons of Mortoun, from whom it was purchased by Colonel Tod, whose heirs again sold it to the Earl of Buchan in 1786. This eccentric nobleman bequeathed it to his son, Sir David Erskine, at whose death in 1837 it reverted to the Buchan family.

Two monasteries in Ireland, the Abbey of Druin-la-Croix in the County of Armagh, and the Abbey of Woodburn in the County of Antrim, acknowledged Dryburgh as their mother. A copy of the *Liber S. Mariæ de Dryburgh* is in the Advocates' Library in Edinburgh, containing all its ancient charters. Such are the main points of history connected with Dryburgh; but, when we open the ballad lore of the South of Scotland, we find this fine old place figuring repeatedly and prominently.

Maitland, of the ballad of "Auld Maitland," was a benefactor to Dryburgh. This Sir Richard Mautlant or Maitland, of Lauder or Thirlestane, gave lands to the abbey at Haubent-side in his demesne of Thirlestane. He also gave to the same convent other lands held by Walter de Gilling in Thirlestane,

and pasture for forty sheep, sixty cows, and twenty horses. This stout old Maitland is represented as holding his castle of Thirlestane against the English army, headed by an imaginary nephew of Edward I.

As they fared up o'er Lammermore,
They burned baith up and down,
Until they came to a darksome house,
Some call it Leader Toun.

"Wha hauds this house?" young Edward cried,
"Or wha geist ower to me?"
A grey-haired knight set up his head,
And crackit richt croufely:—

"Of Scotland's king I haud my house;
He pays me meat and fee;
And I will keep my guid auld house,
While my house will keep me."

The Eildon Hill, on which Thomas of Ercildoune had his interview with the fairy queen, looks down upon you on your right hand as you go from Melrose to Dryburgh. Cowdenknowes, which gave rise to the fine old ballad of the "Broom o' the Cowdenknowes," Bemerside, and Merton House, the seat of Scott of Harden, one of Sir Walter's relatives, are not far off. Many of these associations Scott has woven into his ballad of the "Eve of St. John." The Lady of Smailholme Tower is made to say to her paramour:—

O fear not the priest, who sleepeth to the east!
For to Dryburgh the way he hath ta'en;
And there to say mass, till three days do pass,
For the soul of a knight that is slain.

And the Lord, the Baron of Smailholme, says to his page:—

Where fair Tweed flows round holy Melrose,
And Eildon slopes to the plain,
Full three nights ago, by some secret foe,
That gay gallant was slain.

The varying light deceived thy sight,
 And the wild winds drowned the name ;
 For the Dryburgh bells ring, and the white monks do sing,
 For Richard of Coldinghame.

Into the guilty details of the liaison of the Lady of Smailholme and this Sir Richard of Coldinghame, Scott has introduced warning phenomena, drawn probably from some of his German reading, but more particularly from the story of Lady Beresford and Lord Tyrone. In the apparition scene,—

Love mastered fear—her brow she crossed;
 “How, Richard, hast thou sped ?
 And art thou saved, or art thou lost ?”
 The vision shook his head.

“Who spilleth life shall forfeit life,
 So bid thy lord believe ;
 That lawless love is guilt above,
 ‘This awful sign receive.”

He laid his left palm on an oaken beam,
 His right upon her hand ;
 The lady shrunk and fainting sunk,
 For it scorched like a fiery brand.

The fable score of fingers four
 Remains on that board impressed ;
 And for ever more that lady wore
 A covering on her wrist.

There is a nun in Dryburgh bower
 Ne’er looks upon the sun ;
 There is a monk in Melrose tower,
 He speaketh word to none.

That nun who ne’er beholds the day,
 That monk who speaks to none—
 That nun was Smaylho’mes lady gay,
 That monk the bold baron

To this ghostly ballad Sir Walter appends this ghostly anecdote :—“About fifty years ago, an unfortunate female

wanderer took up her residence in a dark vault, among the ruins of Dryburgh Abbey, which, during the day, she never quitted. When night fell, she issued from this miserable habitation, and went to the house of Mr. Halliburton, of Newmains, the editor's great-grandfather, or to that of Mr. Erskine, of Shielfield, two gentlemen of the neighbourhood. From their charity she obtained such necessaries as she could only be prevailed upon to accept. At twelve each night she lighted her candle, and returned to her vault, assuring her friendly neighbours that, during her absence, her habitation was arranged by a spirit, to whom she gave the uncouth name of Fat Lips; describing him as a little man, wearing heavy iron shoes, with which he trampled the clay floor of the vault to dispel the damps. This circumstance caused her to be regarded, by the well-informed, with compassion, as deranged in her understanding; and by the vulgar, with some degree of terror. The cause of her adopting this extraordinary mode of life she would never explain. It was, however, believed to have been occasioned by a vow that, during the absence of a man to whom she was attached, she would never look upon the sun. Her lover never returned, he fell during the civil war of 1745-6, and she never more would behold the light of day.

"The vault, or rather dungeon, in which this unfortunate woman lived and died, passes still by the name of the supernatural being with which its gloom was tenanted by her disturbed imagination, and few of the neighbouring peasants dare enter it at night."

Having now noticed the history and tradition of Dryburgh, let us take a view of it as it now exists. Grose says,—“The freestone of which the monastery of Dryburgh and the most elegant parts of the abbey of Melrose were built, is of a most beautiful colour and texture, and has defied the influence of the

weather for more than six centuries ; nor is the sharpness of the sculpture in the least affected by the ravages of time. The quarry from which it was taken is still successfully worked at Dryburgh, and no stone in the island seems more perfectly adapted for the purposes of architecture, as it hardens by age, and is not subject to be corroded or decomposed by the weather, so that it might even be used for the cutting of bas-reliefs and of statues." He adds:—

“ The state of this ruin, when viewed by Mr. Pennant, in



DRYBURGH ABBEY.

the year 1769, was a very little remains of the church, but much of the convent ; the refectory, supported by two pillars, several vaults, and other offices ; part of the cloister walls ; and a fine radiated window of stone work. Since this account was written, the refectory, supported by the two pillars above-mentioned, has fallen ; but the gable-ends are still remaining ; in one of which is the fine circular radiated window, described by Mr. Pennant, at present finely mantled with ivy."

As the remains of the abbey have since been carefully preserved, they present still much the same aspect as at Grose's visit in 1797. When I visited this lovely ruin and lovely neighbourhood in 1845, I walked from Melrose, a distance of between three and four miles. Leaving the Eildon Hills on my right, and following the course of the Tweed, I saw, as I progressed, Cowdenknowes, Bemerside, and other spots famous in Border song. Issuing from a steep and woody lane, I came out on a broad bend of the river, with a wide strand of gravel and stones on this side, showing with what force the wintry torrents rushed along here. Opposite rose lofty and finely-wooded banks. Amid the trees on that side shone out a little temple of the Muses, where they are represented as consecrating Thomson the poet. Farther off, on a hill, stands a gigantic statue of William Wallace, which was originally intended for Burns ; but, the stone being too large, it was thought by the eccentric Lord Buchan, who erected it, a pity to cut it down. Another still more striking monument of the activity of Lord Buchan are the remains of a chain-bridge which he had erected across the river. This would have been a great convenience to the neighbourhood had it been durable ; but a tempest tore it to pieces, and there stood up the great white wood frames to which the bridge was attached, the two main chains still stretching across, but the fragments of others dangling in the

air, looking most ghastly and ruinous. So it was in 1845, and so it still seems to continue ; for Walter White, who visited the spot in 1858, or 1859, found these ruins of the bridge still unremoved.

I was ferried over by two women, who were by no means sorry that the winds and floods had carried my Lord Buchan's bridge away, as it restored their business of putting people over. I then ascended a lane from the ferry, and found myself in front of an apparently old castle gateway ; but, from the Latin inscription over it, discovered that it was also erected by the same singular Lord Buchan, as the entrance to a Pomarium, or, in plain English, an orchard, dedicated to his honoured parents, who, I suppose, like our first parents, were particularly fond of apples. That his parents or himself might enjoy all the apples, he had, under the Latin dedication, placed a simple English menace of steel traps and spring guns. I still advanced through a pleasant scene of trees and cottages, of rich grassy crofts, with cattle lying luxuriously in them, and amid a hush of repose, indicative of a monastic scene. Having found a guide to the ruins, at a cottage near the river, I was led across a young orchard towards them, the two old gables and the fine circular window showing themselves above the foliage. I found the interior of the ruins carpeted by soft turf, and two rows of cedars growing in the church, marking where the aisles formerly ran. The cloisters and south transept were still entire, and displayed much fine workmanship. The great circular window is especially lovely, formed of five stars cut in stone, so that the open centre within them forms a rose. The light seen through this charming window produced a fine effect. The chapter-house was also entire, the floor being now only of earth ; and a circle was drawn in the centre, where the remains of the founder and his lady lie. Here again, however, the

fantastic old Lord Buchan had interfered, and a statue of Locke, reading in an open book, and pointing to his own forehead, one of Inigo Jones, and one of Newton, made you wonder what they were doing there. So totally without regard to fitness did this half-crazy nobleman put down his supposed ornaments. The wonder is that his successor had not removed these, and some statues or busts which had as little business on the spot.

But the charm of the place in every sense was the grave of Scott. It was in the Lady aisle, and occupies two arches of it ; and the adjoining space under the next arch is the burial-place of the Erskines, as Scott's burial-place was that of his ancestors the Halliburtons. The whole, with the tier of small sectional Norman arches above, form a glorious tomb much resembling one of the chapel tombs in Winchester Cathedral. Taken in connection with the fine ruins, and the finer natural scenery around, no spot can be supposed more suitable for the resting-place of the remains of the great minstrel and romancer, who so delighted in the natural, historic, and legendary charms of the neighbourhood, and who added still greater ones to them himself.

And yet there is a serious drawback to this feeling. The place is private property ; and, though the public is admitted to it, it was then, and would appear from recent accounts to be yet, done in a spirit that is anything but liberal and courteous. I found the persons who showed the place particularly uncourteous, and, on stating this in the neighbourhood, was assured that this was a general experience. In fact, nothing could be more marked than the pleasantness with which Melrose and Abbotsford were shown to me, and the fullen discourtesy and impatience of the guides here ; and this could not be the case were the spirit of their employers of a more

liberal stamp. Walter White, in his recent visit, says, that he persuaded his companion, an American, to linger awhile in the ruin; but the maiden, the guide, “came back and spoke of regulations which forbid uncontrolled liberty, so, to save her the trouble of watching, we departed. On our way back to the ferry, the American finds further fault with the criticisms of one of his countrymen on the Abbey, and does not see why the unhappy one in the boat complained of Jack-in-office.” This Jack-in-office had, it is clear, retained the same character as my Jack-in-office, thirteen years before.

Since my visit, a massive tomb, of Aberdeen granite, has been placed over the remains of Sir Walter and Lady Scott, and those of their eldest son. A railway also now makes the place much more accessible, the station for Dryburgh being at the village of Newtown, on the other side of the river. Near St. Boswell’s, opposite to Dryburgh, has also been lately erected a bridge over the Tweed, opening up the communication betwixt the north and south side of the river, and thus enabling the tourist to explore at greater convenience the scenes of ancient loves and feuds, and the haunts of Scott. Here his dust lies amid the objects redolent of his fame, and within a few miles, near Makerstoun, a view may be obtained, from a hill, of Smailholme Tower, where the poet passed some of the years of his boyhood, and the memory of which he has perpetuated in one of the epistles which introduce each Canto of *Marmion* :—

It was a barren scene and wild,
Where naked cliffs were rudely piled;
But, ever and anon, between,
Lay velvet tufts of loveliest green;
And well the lonely infant knew
Recesses where the wall-flower grew,
And honeyfuckle loved to crawl
Up the low crag and ruined wall,

I deemed such nooks the sweetest shade
 The sun in all his round surveyed ;
 And still I thought that shattered tower
 The mightiest work of human power ;
 And marvelled, as the aged hind
 With some strange tale bewitch'd my mind,
 Of forayers, who, with headlong force,
 Down from that strength had spurred their horse,
 Their southern rapine to renew
 Far in the distant Cheviots blue,
 And home returning, filled the hall,
 With revel, wassail, rout, and brawl.



The Rock of Cashel.



NE of the most interesting places in Ireland is the Rock of Cashel, in Tipperary. It stands boldly in the midst of a vast champagne, crowned by a cluster of ruins which unite some of the most attractive reminiscences, and some of the most exquisite ecclesiastical architecture in the island.

The character of scene in which the Rock and Tower of Cashel stand is, as stated by Frazer, best seen from the neighbouring hill of Killough. "The hill of Killough is easy of ascent, and, from its superior altitude, a much better view is obtained than from the Rock of Cashel; besides, this hill, and the rocky range running from it, form a visual barrier to the view northward from the rock. If the day is favourable for distant prospects, the view is bounded only by the surrounding high lands which blend with the distant horizon. Eastward, the detached and very remarkable mountain of Slievenaman stretches across, and prevents the eye ranging down the valley of the Suir; and the low and softly rounded hills of Kilkenny, sweeping from Killenaule to Freshford, and thence to Durrow, seem to display and prolong the distant perspective. Northward, the range of hills generally known as the Slievebloom mountains, running from Tullamore to Roscrea, and, nearer, the Devil's Bit range of hills, blending with the Keeper mountains, take up the



ROCK OF CASHEL : GENERAL VIEW.

boundary line from Roscrea to Limerick, lapping over the Clare highlands beyond the Upper Shannon. Westward, the hills issue from the Lower Shannon, at Shanagolden, and run nearly at right angles to its course across the country to Charleville; from whence spring in a southerly direction the Castle Oliver mountains, connecting with the near and more lofty Galtees, by far the finest of our inland mountain ranges. Due south, and more within the reach of the unaided eye, may be seen a portion of the Munavuleagh and Knockmealedown mountains, which run in a westerly direction from Carrick-on-Suir to Kilworth."

In the centre of this grand panorama stands the rock, with the town closely crouched at its feet. On the summit of the rock rises a splendid group of ruins, consisting of the cathedral, Cormack's chapel, and the castle and monastery. Around these ruins an area of about three acres of the richest sward has been enclosed, which is open to the public; and the parish sexton, who acts as the cicerone, is at hand to show the interior. The cathedral forms the centre of the group of these celebrated ruins, which are unparalleled in Ireland for picturesque beauty and antiquarian interest. It is a noble remnant of early pointed Gothic, and contains many interesting relics. The castellated building adjoining forms externally a part of, and is internally connected with, the cathedral, and appears to have been a place of great strength in those days when princely ecclesiastics assumed the powers of lords temporal as well as spiritual. To the north stands one of the old Round Towers, and, on the south side, Cormack's Chapel.

This famous chapel was built by Cormack M'Carthy, King of Munster, in 1136. In its external figure it strikingly resembles those far more ancient churches of the Irish Christian fathers who, from the fifth century, continued to evangelize and civilize the rude people, till the Roman hierarchy came in, rose over their heads, and put them down. We have already had to notice the labours and domiciles of this simple and devoted race of Christian fathers at Iona and Lindisfarne, who spread themselves thence all over Europe. As in the places mentioned, so in Ireland, they generally sought the wildest and most desolate spots for their residences, as more fitted for religious contemplation, from having nothing to call off the attention by its amenity. They had such at Smerwick Harbour, in the county of Kerry, at Bishop's Island, near Kilkee, upon the coast of Clare, styled in Irish, "Oiléan-an-

Easpoig-gor-taigh," *i.e.*, the isle of the hungry or starving bishop. This was a barren, precipitous rock, environed with perpendicular or overhanging cliffs, about 250 feet in height, and containing about three-quarters of an acre of surface, to which access is most difficult, and only to be effected by a skilful climber, and after a continuance of calm weather. There was another such secluded seat of piety on the island of Ard-Oiléan, or Eye Island, off the coast of Connemara. The only companions of the holy fathers on this island were the sea-birds, which built there in thousands, and a few martins. So lonely and desolate was the place, that even these creatures seemed to have lost their dread of man. Again, Saint Senan had, in the sixth century, a very primitive church on Inis Cathaigh or Scatterry Island, the Iona of the South of Ireland.

In most of these, the earliest erections were simply square huts, the gables tapering up from the ground to the eaves, and then covered in by slabs of stone gradually approximating, till they met at the ridge. The windows were very small, very few, and also contracting upwards. The doors did the same, being sometimes not six feet high, yet two feet four inches wide at the bottom, and only one foot nine inches at the top, which was finished, not by an arch, but by a flat lintel. Others were circular, with the base low, and the roof a high cone of stones laid to contract at every fresh layer till they terminated in a point at the top. These little dwellings and churches were such as the most unskilled person could erect, and yet were so strong as to resist the force of the tempest of the wild locations in which they were raised.

As time and architecture advanced, the churches, though still small, became square, with high-pitched stone roofs, and doors and windows still showing the same style of contracting upwards, but now often finished by arches, round or pointed.

The walls were very thick, and therefore the windows were widened, or displayed inwards to admit more light. Such are the remains of the ancient Irish churches in the romantic valley of Glendalough in Wicklow, of the structure called St. Kevin's Kitchen in the same valley, of Killiney Church, about nine miles from Dublin; of the Church of Kilternan, about six miles from Dublin on the Enniskerry Road, of St. Columb's House at Kells, County Meath, and of St. Flannan's House at Killaloe.

The roofs of these churches did not depend on the mutual support of the stone slabs forming them, but were borne on stone arches. It is curious that, as the Norman period approached, the windows and doors of these churches were found to be ornamented with the zig-zag or chevron moulding, had recessed arches, and pillars surmounted with capitals presenting sculptured faces, mingled with the remains of their own old style, their upward narrowing doors and peculiar pillars. Norman, whatever it did in England before the Conquest, has been shown by Wakeman to have been modifying the Irish ecclesiastical architecture for some time. After that period, the Norman style prevailed more purely, and no finer proof of this exists than in St. Cormack's Chapel at Cashel. With the exception of the Round Tower, it is the most ancient structure on the rock. The numerous ornaments, grotesque heads, and other curious sculptures which adorn the arches, columns, and pilasters, are all uniform in style, and that style is distinctly Norman. The plan is a nave and chancel, with a square tower on each side, at their junction. The southern tower is ornamented externally with six projecting bands, three of which are continued along the side walls of the structure; and it is finished at the top by a plain parapet, the masonry of which is different from that of the other portions,

and evidently of a later period. The northern tower remains in its original state, and is covered with a pyramidal cap of stone. An almost endless variety of Norman decorations appear upon the arches and other features of the building, both within and without. Both nave and chancel are roofed with a semi-circular arch, resting upon square ribs, which spring from a series of massive semi-columns, set at equal distances against the walls. The bases of these semi-columns are on a level with the capitals of the choir arch, the abacus of which is continued as a string course round the interior of the building. The walls of both nave and chancel beneath the string course are ornamented with a row of semi-circular arches, slightly recessed, and enriched with chevron, fillet, and other ornaments and mouldings. Those of the nave spring from square impostes resting upon piers, while those in the chancel have pillars and well-formed capitals. There are small crofts, to which access is gained by a spiral stair in the northern tower, between the arches over both nave and chancel, and the external roof. These little apartments were probably used as dormitories by the ecclesiastics. A similar croft in the church of St. Doulough, near Dublin, is furnished with a fire-place, a fact which clearly demonstrates that they were applied to the purpose of a habitation. Of the three doorways of Connor's chapel, two are very rich in sculpture, and show remains of the ancient Irish style, having a square lintel, and upon that a semi-circular arch highly decorated.

The Round Tower on the north of the cathedral is a perfect one, and displays most of the peculiarities of these most interesting remains of Irish antiquity. As the reader is aware, for a very long time there was much speculation in Ireland amongst the learned, and many theories regarding their origin. They were Danish, Phœnician, and half a dozen other things.



ROUND TOWER : ROCK OF CASHEL.

Their tall pointed character suggested that they belonged to the worshippers of the sun and of fire. For a considerable period this theory of General Vallancy and his disciples prevailed ; but Dr. Petrie in his “ Ecclesiastical Architecture of Ireland,” published in 1845, put all these fancies to flight, and added a new interest to them by clearly demonstrating that they were the work of the ancient Christians of the country ; that they

had been erected at different periods betwixt the fifth and thirteenth centuries, and had served for belfries, and for places of strength in cases of attack by marauding enemies ; as well as for watch-towers, from whence the approach of danger might be defied. He imagines that they might also have used them as beacons. These deductions he drew not only from their peculiar construction, but from the ancient Celtic MSS. of the country.

How clear now appears their origin. These singular and gloomy-looking tall hollow cylinders, with their lantern tops for the most part, with their small loopholes generally larger near the summit, and their lowest entrance at many feet from the ground, which the ancient Christians, no doubt, reached by a ladder, probably of rope, and which they drew in after them, seem now perfectly intelligible. Tolerably secure, from the strength of the building and its resistance to fire, having no wood about it, the Christian inhabitants could carry in with them their few valuables, especially their historic and sacred MSS., and could repel any assailants from the entrance, by having, as was frequently the case, another doorway above it, whence they could fling down huge stones on their heads. This origin accounts fully for their always being in connexion with the old churches, or on the spots where they had stood, and on which more modern ones have been erected. The character of their doorways is similar to those of the primitive churches, narrowing upwards, sometimes with the simple lintel, sometimes with a round and somewhat ornamented arch. Over the main door they had frequently a cross, or the figure of the crucifixion, in a style allied to that of the churches. The round towers which I have seen were chiefly in the middle part of Ireland. A fine one, but much out of the perpendicular, stands in the cathedral yard of

Kilkenny. I observed another on my way from Edgeworth Town to Auburn ; and Dr Petrie particularly mentions those of Antrim ; those at Donoughmore, in the county of Meath ; at Timahoe and Kildare ; at Clondalkin, Swords, Rusk and Rathmichael, near Dublin ; at Monasterboice, near Drogheda ; at Cloyne, in the county of Cork, and others. This round tower at Cashel indicates that the rock was the site of more ancient ecclesiastical erections than the present ruined cathedral.

Besides these sacred buildings on the rock, Cashel possessed several monasteries of much note. There was the old Dominican Friary, which was close to the site of the old Roman Catholic chapel. This was founded in the year 1243, by Archbishop Michael M'Kelly, who brought brethren from the Dominican abbey at Cork. It was destroyed by fire, and rebuilt in 1480, by John Cantwell, the archbishop, who promised to all persons aiding in its restoration the benefit of the masses, prayers, sermons, vigils, and other good deeds of the Dominican brotherhood throughout the kingdom during this life, and afterwards eternal happiness. A very liberal promise, if the recipients could have been assured of more infrangibility than promises are proverbial for. This friary is said to have been the noblest and most beautiful building belonging to the Dominican order in Ireland. At the suppression it was granted by Henry VIII. to Walter Fleming, of Cashel, for ever—tithes excepted—at an annual rent of 2*s.* 6*d.*, Irish money. The ruins are now much decayed.

Then there was Hacket's, or the Franciscan abbey, on whose site the present Roman Catholic chapel was built. This was founded in the reign of Henry III., by William Hacket. In 1363 the abbey must have been in a very disorderly state ; for a number of the friars by name were charged by the Lord Chief Justice, Sir Robert Preston, with cutting down timber,

driving off the flock to the value of a hundred marks, and committing a variety of other enormities on his lands of Ballytarfyn and Le Hethon, for which offences he ordered the sheriffs to attach them. In 1538, the friars of the Strict Observance reformed this convent; but, if it had not been reformed before, it must have had about two centuries, or probably more, of disgraceful license. At the dissolution, Henry VIII. granted it for ever to Archbishop Butler, of Cashel, at the annual rent of 2*s.* 10*d.*, Irish money. In the night of the 14th of February, 1757, the lofty and beautiful steeple of this friary fell to the ground; and afterwards the ruins went rapidly to decay, till their outlines could scarcely be traced.

But the most important of all these monasteries was Hore Abbey, or the White Friars. This was situated upon the plain immediately beside the rock, and its fine remains continue in comparatively good preservation. This abbey—called also St. Mary's Abbey of the Rock of Cashel—was originally founded for Benedictines; but the archbishop, David M^cCarvill, having dreamed, in the year 1269 or 1272, that these monks had made an attempt to cut off his head, he violently dispossessed them, and gave their monastery to a body of Cistercian monks, whom he brought from the abbey of Mellifont, in the county of Louth, he himself at the same time assuming the habit of that order. The abbey possessed at this time much property, various extensive lands, three mills, and a moiety of a mill, a church and a chapel; all of which were confirmed to the Cistercians by Edwards I. and II. At the dissolution the catalogue of the abbey property was large. There were nearly twenty messuages, with their gardens and fields, amounting to nearly five hundred acres, besides warren, tithes and alterages, a measure of ale out of every brewing in the town, called the Mary-gallon, with other privileges, and four churches. The

bulk of this property was granted in 1561 by Queen Elizabeth to Sir Henry Radcliffe; but in 1576 it was re-granted on lease to James Butler, and in the forty-second of the same reign to Thomas Sinclair, at the annual rent of 2*s.* Irish money.

In Archdall's time (1786) he described the remains of Hore Abbey as in the following condition:—"The noble ruins of this erection still remain, and are, for the most part, entire. The steeple is large, and about twenty feet square on the inside, which is supported by a variety of ogives from each angle, some meeting in an octagon in the centre, and others at the key-stones of the vault, and the structure is supported by two fine arches, about thirty feet high. The choir, or chapel, which adjoins the east side of the steeple, is about twenty-nine feet in length, and twenty-four in breadth on the inside; the east window is small and plain, and in the side walls are some remains of stalls, &c. The nave is sixty feet in length, twenty-three in breadth, and on each side was an arcade of three Gothic arches, the north side whereof is levelled, with lateral aisles, which were about thirteen feet broad. Between this and the steeple is an apartment, but we are equally ignorant as to its name and the use to which it was applied. It is thirty-one feet in length, of the same breadth as the nave, and divided from the steeple by a plain wall. On each side are similar arcades of two arches only, and this opens with the west arch of the steeple. On the south side of the steeple is a small door leading into an open part, about thirty feet long and twenty-four broad; the side walls are much broken, and in the gable end is a long window. There is a similar division on the north side of the steeple. Here is a small arched apartment, which seems to have been a confessional, as there are niches in the walls, with holes, &c."

Such is the group of monasteries whose ruins crown the

summit of the Rock of Cashel, or stand beneath its shade in the town, perhaps altogether the most remarkable in Ireland. They show that in the early ages of Irish history Cashel was a place of much importance. It was long the residence of the Kings of Munster, who had their palace on the rock ; the ancient round tower probably being attached to the royal chapel. After 1101, the rock became wholly occupied by the cathedral, and the other ecclesiastical buildings. When Strongbow and his followers, by adopting the quarrel of Dermot MacMurrough, the King of Leinster, against Roderick O'Connor, King of Connaught, Tiernan O'Ruarc, lord of Breffny, and other Irish chieftains, had made himself master of all Ireland, except Ulster, and Henry II. hastened over, in 1171, to secure the possession of the island to himself, it was near Cashel, on the banks of the Suir, that he received the homage of the King of Thomond or Limerick, the Prince of Ossory, and the other chiefs of Munster. Here again, after having visited Dublin, and received the homage of most of the other Irish chieftains, except those of Ulster, Henry called together a general council of the clergy to regulate the affairs of the church. At this council the sovereignty of Henry was fully acknowledged by the clergy. Between that important period, however, and the landing of King William III., Cashel was doomed, like most other Irish towns, to suffer many a blow in the different rebellions against the English rule, and by the punishments inflicted for these rebellions. What the Catholic clergy had to endure from the so-called Protestant invaders, may be imagined from what Miller in his " Letters to a Prebendary " relates ; namely, that on O'Hurle, the Archbishop of Cashel, falling into the hands of Queen Elizabeth's Governor, Sir William Drury, in 1573, he was first tortured by immersing his legs in jack-boots, filled with quick-lime,

water, &c., until they were burnt to the bone, in order to force him to take the oath of supremacy, and he was then, with other circumstances of barbarity, hanged on the gallows.

During the civil war in the reign of Charles I., Lord Inchiquin, who had been one of the king's most zealous partizans, revolted against him, and fell with fury on the Catholics. He had long commanded in Ireland, though without the title of Lord President; and when the Earl of Portland was named by Charles to that office, Inchiquin was so incensed, that he went over to the Parliament, and set himself diligently to work to prove his zeal in the cause of his new masters. He made his officers and soldiers take the covenant, and bound them by a solemn oath to effect the total extirpation of popery, and the subjugation of the Irish. He proceeded to seize Cork, Youghal, and Kinfale, and drove out all the Catholic inhabitants, and plundered them of their effects. But his crowning atrocity was that at Cashel. "There," says Leland, "the inhabitants fled to their cathedral, seated on a rock well fortified, and provided with a strong garrison. Inchiquin proposed to leave them unmolested, on condition that they paid him over £3,000, and a month's pay to his army. But, as this proposal was rashly rejected, he took the place by storm, with considerable slaughter, both of the citizens and soldiers. Here he gained a prodigious booty. In storming the rock of Cashel, about twenty ecclesiastics fell in the indiscriminate slaughter; an incident shocking to the nuncio, who inveighed against this sacrilege, and clamoured for revenge." Castlehaun says that he put to death three thousand people, including many gentry who had fled to the rock for safety, and took the priests from under the very altars.

"Inchiquin," says Taylor, "was the lineal descendant of the royal race of the O'Briens; but there never was a scourge

of Ireland animated by a greater hatred of his countrymen. Whether fighting for the king or the parliament—and he changed fides more than once—he was invariably the bitter enemy of his countrymen, and the savage profaner of the



ROCK OF CASHEL : NORTH TRANSEPT OF CATHEDRAL.

religious edifices in which the ashes of his own ancestors reposed. His name is preserved in the traditions of Munster, as the symbol of everything that is wicked and terrible. Nurses scare their children by the threat of calling *black Murrough O'Bryan*; and the superstitious peasant tells of the curse that he brought upon his family; and the failure of male heirs to the title of Inchiquin."

Holy-Cross Abbey.



IRELAND," says Harris in his preface to his edition of "Ware's Antiquities," "has been distinguished among other nations by the title of the Island of the Saints, for the vigilance of its reformers from heathenism, and the perseverance of the nation in the practice of the strictest moral and religious duties." Arienus, many centuries ago, following still earlier writers, called it the holy island. We may, therefore, suppose that Ireland, from a very early period, abounded with monasteries and nunneries. One of the most sacred and esteemed of these establishments was Holy-Cross Abbey in Tipperary. It was founded for monks of the Cistercian order, in honour of the Holy Cross of St. Mary and St. Benedict. It stood on the right bank of the Suir, about three miles from Thurles, and near it a village. It was named the Abbey of the Holy Cross, from a fragment of the true cross which Pope Pascal II. sent to Murtough, King of Ireland, in 1110. The abbey, however, was not founded till 1182, by Donogh Carbragh O'Brien, King of Limerick. The founder conferred on it extensive lands, and Gregory was its first abbot. It received further endowments and privileges from Kings John, Henry III., Richard II., the Earls of Ormond, and the Archbishop of Cashel.

The abbey was a daughter of the Abbey of Nenagh, Magy,

or Maig, in the County of Limerick, which was also founded by O'Brien, and, itself a daughter of Mell, became the mother of many others. The abbot of Holy Cross was a baron of Parliament, and styled Earl of Holy Cross. He was usually the vicar-general of the Cistercian order in Ireland. Jungelin, in his time, said that it was incredible what a number of Irish Catholics still continued their resort to this church on account of the piece of our Saviour's cross kept there. In the winter of 1559, the great rebel O'Neill made a pilgrimage to the piece of the cross, and this said fragment is affirmed to be still in the possession of the Roman Catholics of the place.

The incident just thrown in by the topographer, of the great rebel, O'Neill, making a pilgrimage to the fragment of the cross at Holy-Cross Abbey, is just one of those dry bones stripped of every particle of living flesh, of which our topographies generally consist. How little does the reader see of the real fact in this dry incidental statement. It is only when he turns to history, and asks who was this O'Neill, and what were the circumstances under which he made this pilgrimage, that he finds himself in the midst of scenes which tell a startling tale of what Ireland and what England were at that day, the much-vaunted day of Queen Elizabeth. Around this picturesque pile of Holy-Cross there combated the wild children of a wild land, for their soil and their religion, against the Raleighs, the Spensers, and the Essexes of England. Then indeed did the oppressed native of Ireland cling to every symbol and abode of his faith with a half despairing, half desperate energy, and saw that Protestantism,—which should have been mild and merciful, because it boasted itself more enlightened,—libelled by greedy statesmen, and even by the worshippers of the muses, who were grasping at the possessions of their neighbours, and reigning amid fire and bloodshed over the desolated

lands of the Irish. The picture of those days, as they are limned by Samuel Smiles, author of the "Life of George Stephenson," in his History of Ireland, shows us what are the memories that to this day still rankle in the hearts of the children of Erin, and render them insensible to the better treatment of to-day. It may be well to quote a few passages from a writer so well known for his moderate and judicious spirit:—

"At the accession of Elizabeth, Ireland was in a state of distraction. In the north, O'Neill was struggling to make himself master of Ulster, in which he had nearly succeeded; in Connaught, the rival branches of the De Burgh family were making fierce and destructive war on each other: Munster was again distracted by the feuds of the Butlers and the Geraldines, and by struggles for the chieftaincy of the province; while Leinster was overrun by the men whom the barbarous persecution of the English Government had made landless, homeless, and desperate.

"One of the first acts of the Earl of Essex, the Queen's Lord-deputy, was to convene a parliament, and pass the famous Acts of Supremacy and Conformity for the re-establishment of the Reformed religion. These Acts were levelled at the whole fabric of Catholicism in Ireland: they transferred the primacy from the Pope to the Queen, and vested in her and the English Parliament the spiritual power to decide in all errors and heresies in the Church. The work of Protestantizing the Irish then commenced in earnest. The priesthood, who refused to change their opinions at the command of the Queen, were driven at once from their cures, and their places supplied by the scum of the English Church—men whom the English poet Spenser describes as guilty of 'gross simony, greedy covetousness, fleshly incontinence, careless sloth, and generally

all disordered life.' The new clergy, besides, were men who did not know a word of the language of the people among whom they were sent to minister; they had no sympathy for them; but, on the other hand, were leagued with those whom the Irish naturally looked upon as their malignant enemies and oppressors. How different from the native Catholic clergy of Ireland!—men sprung from the people, devotedly attached to them, sympathizing with their sorrows, sharing in their sufferings, and sparing no toil or labour in the performance of their religious duties. All the powers of the most persecuting government that ever existed could have no influence upon the convictions of a people ministered to by a priesthood such as this. And they had not. Elizabeth had tried all forms of persecution with the Irish, even to the length of extermination, and they failed. She and her armies might conquer the soil of Ireland; but they could not conquer the deeply-rooted religious convictions of its inhabitants. Long, indeed, before the conclusion of her reign, Protestantism had made itself thoroughly odious and intolerable to the great mass of the Irish people.

“The plan which the government of Elizabeth seems to have premeditatedly adopted, and rigidly adhered to during her reign, was that of coercion and subjugation of the Irish. At one period, nothing short of utter extermination was thought of. With this view, chieftains were incited to make war upon each other, the agents of the government watching the opportunity to pounce upon them, and divide their estates amongst themselves. When districts could not be goaded to rebellion, other excuses were always found ready at hand. An infamous act was never yet done by wicked men, but there was an excuse to prop it up with. Thus, when chiefs did not actually rebel, it was easy to accuse them of *intending* to rebel; and the same

object was accomplished as if they had been taken in actual rebellion. The first chief with whom the new policy was tried, was the powerful John O'Neill of Ulster. A large force was marched against him, which O'Neill prepared vigorously to resist. An accommodation, however, was effected between the Lord-deputy and the chief, and bloodshed was for a time averted. The chief seized the opportunity of proceeding to London with all speed, to lay his case before Queen Elizabeth in person. His appearance at the English court, in the character, dress, and following of an Irish chief, caused a great sensation. The fight-loving Londoners were delighted with the novelty; and Elizabeth felt flattered by the deference of the 'wild Irish chief.' The result was that O'Neill gained his point; and returned to Ireland, confirmed in all his honours, and in the possession of all his vast estates." Elizabeth, in fact, created him Earl of Tyrone; or Tir Owen, as the English called him.

Camden, speaking of this Shane-Dymas, or John O'Neill, and his visit to London, says:—"He had 600 men for his guard, 4,000 foot, 1,000 horse for the field. He claimed superiority over all the lords of Ulster, and called himself king thereof. When commissioners were sent to treat with him, he said 'that, though the Queen were his Sovereign lady, he never made peace with her, *but at her lodging*; that she had made a wife earl of Macartymore, but that he kept as good a man as he. That he cared not for so mean a title as earl; that his blood and power were better than the best; that his ancestors were kings of Ulster; and that he would give place to none.' His kinsman, the Earl of Kildare, having persuaded him of the folly of contending with the crown of England, he resolved to attend the Queen, but in a style suited to his princely dignity. He appeared in London with a

magnificent train of Irish galloglasses, arrayed in the richest habiliments of their country, their heads bare, their hair flowing on their shoulders, with their long and open sleeves dyed with saffron. Thus dressed, and furcharged with military harness, and armed with battle-axes, they afforded an astonishing spectacle to the citizens, who regarded them as the intruders of some very distant part of the globe. But at court his versatility now prevailed; his title to the sovereignty of Tyrone was pleaded from English laws and Irish institutions; and his allegations were so specious, that the Queen dismissed him with presents and assurances of favour. In England this transaction was looked upon as the humiliation of a repenting rebel: in Tyrone it was considered as a treaty of peace between two potentates."

"The Queen's English agents in Ireland were enraged at being thus out-manœuvred by O'Neill. They continued to represent to the Queen the danger of allowing such a person to remain possessed of such vast powers, and constantly asserted that he was on the brink of insurrection. 'Well,' at length replied Elizabeth, 'if he do revolt, it will be the better for you, as *there will then be estates enough for you all.*' However Elizabeth may have meant this—and she was a woman heartless and selfish enough for anything—her Irish retainers construed it into a licence to provoke the native chiefs into revolt, that they might share amongst them the estates which might thus be forfeited. Certainly means were immediately thereafter adopted to provoke O'Neill to rebellion. His resistance to the Government was at first effectual; but only a short time elapsed before he was completely crushed by their overwhelming power, as well as by the defection of those on whom he had counted as allies. In his last extremity, he fled to the Hebridian Scots, whom he had formerly attacked and routed

with great slaughter, to gain the favour of the English queen. In revenge, and instigated by Piers, a British officer, they slew him, and his head was sent to Dublin, as a trophy of the victory."

Then follows the long and revolting story of the sharing up of O'Neill's vast estates amongst the English officers and gentlemen, and the same persecution, pursuing to death, and carving up of the great estates in Munster of the Earl of Desmond, a descendant of one of the Anglo-Norman barons, who first invaded Ireland under Strongbow. "The ferocity and cruelty with which this war was conducted," says Mr. Smiles, "is perhaps unsurpassed in the records of crime. Slaughter, famine, and desolation, marked the route of the English army. No quarter was given. Men, women, and children, wherever found, were indiscriminately put to death. Soldiers were mad for blood. Priests were murdered at the altar, and children at their mother's breasts. The beauty of women, the venerableness of age, the innocence of youth, were no protection against these sanguinary demons in human form. The soldiers in the camp,' says Holinshed, the English chronicler, 'were so hot upon the spur, and so eager upon the vile rebels, that they spared neither man, woman, nor child, but *all* were committed to the sword.' Neither was their cruelty glutted with bloodshed. According to Lombard, a contemporary writer, 'great companies of these provincials, men, women, and children, were often forced into castles, and other houses, which were then set on fire.' All cattle were carried away by the invaders, and crops cut down in sheer wantonness. What they could not carry with them they destroyed with the flames. Famine and desolation were their handmaids; those who were not slain with the sword perished with hunger. 'They performed,' says Cox, another old English writer, 'their duty so

effectually, and brought the rebels to so low a condition, that they saw three children eating the entrails of their dead mother, upon whose flesh they had fed many days, and roasted it with a slow fire.' We take a poet's description of the hideous scenes of desolation which Ireland presented at this period. "Notwithstanding," says Edmund Spenser, 'that the same was a most rich and plentiful country, yet, in one year and a half they were brought to such wretchedness, as that any strong heart would rue the same. Out of every corner of the woods and glynns they came creeping forth upon their hands, for their legs could not bear them; they looked like anatomies of death; they spoke like ghosts crying out of their graves; they did eat the dead carrions, happy when they could find them, yea, and one another soon after; insomuch that the very carcases they spared not to scrape out of their graves; and if they found a plot of water-creffes or shamrocks, there they flocked as to a feast for the time, yet not able to continue withal; that in short space there was none almost left, and a most populous and plentiful country suddenly left void of man and beast.'

And though Spenser speaks here rather pityingly of the poor Irish, yet, in his "View of the State of Ireland," he recommended starving them down till "they would quietly consume themselves and devour one another." Sir Walter Raleigh is charged with massacring in cold blood, and after surrender, a Spanish garrison at Smerwick, in Kerry,—massacring them to a man; and for such deeds he received 40,000 acres of the estate of the murdered Earl Desmond, and Spenser received Kilcolman Castle and property, which was in turn burnt over his head by the incensed Irish.

At length Queen Elizabeth was informed that "nothing was left in Ireland but carcases and ashes:" and Sir George

Carrew, one of the actors in these horrid scenes, wrote an account of these infernal proceedings in a book called "*Hibernia Pacata*,"—"Ireland Pacified!" It was so completely "pacified" that Holinshed says, "The land itself, which before these wars was populous, well inhabited, and rich in all the blessings of God, being plenteous of corn, full of cattle, well stored with fruit, and sundry other good commodities—is now waste and barren, yielding no fruits; the pastures no cattle; the fields no corn; the air no birds; the seas, though full of fish, yet to them yielding nothing. Finally, every way, the curse of God was so great, and the land so barren both of man and beast, that whosoever did travel from the one end to the other of all Munster, even from Waterford to the heart of Limerick, which is about six-score miles, he should not meet any man, woman, or child, saving in towns or cities; nor yet see any beast, but the very wolves, the foxes, and other like ravenous beasts."

Such were the scenes which, in Queen Elizabeth's days, and through those of the Stuarts, surrounded these old monastic halls, which we are accustomed to regard as the haunts of peace and pious contemplation. The only wonder is that they escaped the general ravage, and were suffered to stand at all. The only thing which protected even a fragment of these fine architectural walls, was the fact that they were become the property of the Earl of Ormond, granted by Elizabeth in the fifth year of her reign, with 160 acres of arable land, sixty of pasture and two of wood, in the town of Holy Cross.

The great O'Neill, who made a pilgrimage to the fragment of the Holy Cross, would no longer find it deposited in the Abbey of Holy-Cross, but in some Catholic church or chapel of the place. It was this O'Neill, or O'Neale, to whom Sir Walter Scott alludes in *Rokeby*:—



HOLY-CROSS ABBEY.

Who has not heard while Erin yet
Strove 'gainst the Saxon's iron bit—
Who has not heard how brave O'Neale
In English blood imbrued his steel,
Against St. George's cross blazed high
The banners of his Tanistry,
To fiery Essex gave the foil,
And reigned a prince in Ulster's foil ?

Spenser, the poet, describes the rude mode in which even chiefs like O'Neill occasionally lived :—" The wood is his house against all weathers, and his mantle is his couch to sleep in. Therein he wrappeth himself round, and covereth himself strongly against the gnats, which in that country doe more annoy the naked rebels while they keep the woods, and doe more sharply wound them, than all their enemies' swords or spears, which can seldom come nigh them." But Sir John Harrington tells us how this O'Neill lived at his camp, for he paid him a visit at the time of his truce with Essex ; and after noticing " his fern tables, and fern forms, spread under the stately canopy of heaven," he notices what constitutes the real power of every monarch, the love, namely, and allegiance of his subjects :—" His guard, for the most part, were beardless boys, without shirts, who in the frost wade as familiarly through rivers as water-spaniels. With what charm such a master makes them love him, I know not ; but if he bid them come, they come ; if go, they do go ; if he say—do this, they do it." —*Nugæ Antiquæ*.

The English, however, never ceased to pursue these half wild but heroic O'Neills, till their followers were obliged to say :—

For Turlough's days of joy are done,
And other lords have seized his land,
And faint and feeble is his hand,
And all the glory of Tyrone
Is like a morning vapour flown.

This O'Neill was Hugh, the nephew of the former great Earl of Tyrone, who had succeeded to his estates, which had been restored by Elizabeth once more, once more only to excite the cupidity of the English settlers. By these voracious harpies he had been, like his uncle, driven into rebellion, that his property might become forfeited. One general after

another had been sent against him only to be defeated. Sir John Norris, Lord Burgh, Sir Henry Bagnal, had all successively been put to the rout; O'Neill was fast uniting the Irish chiefs in a common resistance to their oppressors, and was seeking additional aid from Spain. Elizabeth, now trembling for her Irish dominions, sent over her favourite, the Earl of Essex, to quell him. Essex was not more successful against O'Neill than his predecessors, and was glad to make a truce with him; which so enraged Elizabeth that, to calm down her anger, he hastened to England, leaving Lord Mountjoy to manage affairs in his absence.

It was during this winter of 1559, whilst Essex in London was vainly endeavouring to regain the favour of Elizabeth, and whilst Mountjoy was as vainly endeavouring to draw O'Neill into an engagement, that he paid his visit to the piece of the true cross. Perhaps it might be in hope to draw some consolation from so sacred a relic, for the days were now very dark with him. Essex, who had dealt gently with him, was gone, and had himself fallen amongst courtiers who stimulated his sovereign, and successfully, to send him to the block. But he had left his kinsman Blount, Lord Mountjoy, and other able generals, who were pressing him hard, and never ceased to press him till they had brought him to a humiliating peace. It was time! Such was the condition of his people, that Morison, in his "History of Ireland," says,—“Some old women about Newry used to make a fire in the fields, and divers little children, driving out the cattle in the cold mornings, and coming thither to warm themselves, were by these women surprised, killed, and eaten; which was at length discovered by a great girl breaking from them by the strength of her body; and Captain Trevor sending out soldiers to know the truth, they found the children's skulls and bones, and apprehended the old women,

who were executed for the fact." Numbers of poor people, Morrifon adds, were found dead in the ditches, with the remains of nettles, docks, and other weeds in their mouths. Such were the results of the so-called endeavours to plant Protestantism in Ireland by "good Queen Bess."

From its present remains, Holy-Cross evidences for itself that it was one of the finest specimens of the pointed style of architecture in Ireland. Archdall, in the "*Monasticum Hibernicum*," in 1786, represents the condition of the building as follows:—It consists of a high steeple, nearly square, supported on each side by a beautiful Gothic arch, and in the centre by a great variety of ogives passing diagonally from each angle. On the east side thereof there is a small chapel, twenty-one feet in breadth, and twenty-four in length. The roof is arched, and beautifully supported by a number of ogives from the sides and angles. On the south side is a Gothic tomb, which, according to O'Halloran, is that of the founder, with a cross thereon, but no inscription. The tradition of the place, however, informs us that this tomb was erected for the good woman who brought the holy relic hither. Between the nave and the steeple is a space of twenty-one feet six inches in breadth, and thirty in length, detached from the nave by an arch, which, we suppose, made a part of the choir. The nave was forty-nine feet broad, and fifty-eight long: on each side is an arcade of four arches, with lateral aisles, which pass on either side of that part we conclude to have been the choir. The entrance is by a door at the west-end, under a large window. On the south side of the choir are two chapels, each about ten feet square, and both of them arched and supported as the other parts of the building. Between these are a double row of Gothic arches, supported by twisted pillars, each distant about two feet four inches from

each other: here the ceremony of waking the monks was performed; and not where the holy relic was kept, as remarked by a respectable writer, in a plate which by mistake is reversed. On the north side of the choir are two other chapels, each of them eleven feet long and eleven broad, with roofs supported in like manner with the others; and between these and the opposite lateral aisle, the whole is arched; but opposite the south chapel there is an open space, with a large flight of stairs leading to the steeple, &c., in the north angle of which are stairs which ascend to the top. The difference in the work of this monastery is very extraordinary;—nothing could have been more highly finished than the steeple and chapels, which are built of marble and limestone; yet the nave, the aisles, and adjoining ruins, are miserably mean. On the south side the ruins cover a considerable space. The river Suir, which, before it reaches the sea, is so amazingly extensive, flows near the ruins of this monastery in a small stream. A parish church, with a few wretched cabins, are the only remains of a once celebrated town.”

It may be supposed that since this account was written, the remains of Holy-Cross have suffered further and considerable dilapidation; yet Frazer, in his “Handbook of Ireland,” says that the ruins are still extensive and picturesque, containing many interesting details, and amongst these is a tomb of Lady Eleanor Butler, fourth Countess of Desmond.



Cahir Castle.



ABOUT eight miles south-west from Cashel, and at the same distance west-north-west from Clonmel, and also on the Suir, stands the very pretty little town of Cahir. It has about 3,500 inhabitants, and, for its size, possesses the handsomest public buildings in Munster. But it is still more

striking from its very fine situation, and its surrounding scenery. The property of the town and castle is that of the earls of Glengall, who have preserved the ruins of the castle from unnecessary dilapidations, and have greatly improved the town generally. The situation of the castle is fine, standing on an isolated rock on the left bank of the Suir, and commanding views of the Galtee and Knockmealedown Mountains. Cahir is, in fact, situated at the foot of the eastern extremity of the Galtee range, and looking over the fine level lands southward to the Knockmealedown range. At Cahir, the traveller finds himself in the centre of many natural beauties, and all of easy access. The country round the town, the banks of the Suir, which runs through the town, and the finely-wooded park of the Earl of Glengall, are themselves very attractive; but, besides this, within easy drives are the mountains already mentioned, the Glen of Aharlo, and the caves of Mitchelstown. The Galtee Mountains are celebrated for their variety

of outline, their fertile slopes and picturesque glens; and the caves of Mitchelftown, about midway between Cahir and Mitchelftown, are near the south feet of these mountains. They have not been discovered many years, though they



CAHIR CASTLE.

are near the cavern of Skuhewinky, which has been long known.

It is asserted by modern archæologists that the builder of the present Castle of Cahir is unknown. Archdall and others attribute its erection to Conor-na-Catharach O'Brien, King of

Thomond prior to 1142. But it is contended that no castle, properly so called, of this class was erected in Ireland at that period, and that the supposition of Connor having built this castle arises from his having built a "cahir," or fort; but that this fort of his was not this on the Suir, but one on the island in Lough Derg, near Killaloe, which still retains his name. The ancient name of this town was originally *Cahirduna-iasfaigh*, or the circular stone fortress of the fish-abounding dun, or fort; from an earthen dun, or fort, having stood on the site of a subsequent cahir, or stone fort, which was again succeeded by a regular castle. There is a record of the destruction of the stone fort as early as the third century, by the brother-in-law of Felemy Rechtmar, at which time it was the residence of a lady of the name of Bodamar.

The present castle was, no doubt, built by some of the earliest Anglo-Norman settlers in Ireland. In the fourteenth century it was the residence of James Galdie, or Butler, son of James, the third earl of Ormond, by Catherine, daughter of Gerald, Earl of Desmond, whose descendant Thomas Butler, ancestor to the present Earl of Glengall, was advanced to the peerage in the 34th of Henry VIII., by the title of Baron of Cahir.

The chief historical events connected with the castle were the sieges of it by the Earl of Essex, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and by Lord Inchiquin, in that of Charles I. The readers of English history are familiar with the unhappy expedition of Essex to Ireland, which was greatly promoted by his powerful enemies at court, as certain to end unfortunately, and thus as certainly to break his influence with the Queen. Former viceroys and commanders in Ireland had suffered disaster on disaster; and by the battle of the Blackwater, in 1598, the English forces were reduced to the lowest

ebb. Essex landed with an army of more than 20,000 men, the largest force, according to the Four Masters, sent to Ireland by the English since the invasion by Strongbow. But Essex was no more successful than his predecessors. His orders were, in the first place, to reduce the rebels in Ulster, and to put strong garrisons into their forts; but, instead of this, he marched into Munster, and laid siege to Cahir Castle. He invested it with 7,000 foot and 1,300 horse; but the Earl of Desmond and Redmond Burk came to its relief, and Essex found himself unable to reduce it till he had sent to Waterford for heavy ordnance. On the tenth day of the siege, being the 20th of May, 1599, the castle was surrendered to the Earl of Essex and the Queen. But the surrender of the castle was of no real advantage. He made, indeed, capture of the rebels' cattle in those parts, and drove the rebels themselves into the woods and mountains; but, as fast as he retired again towards Dublin, these rebels came out from their retreats and followed on his track, harassing his rear, so that his return was rather like a rout than the march of a conqueror. The disasters which befell him on this journey completed his ruin; so that the Four Masters observe:—"The Irish afterwards were wont to say that it were better for the Earl of Essex that he had not undertaken this expedition from Dublin to Hy-Conell Gaura, as he had to return back from his enterprise without receiving submission or respect from the Geraldines, and without having achieved any exploit except the taking of Cahir-duna-iafgach." The Lord Cahir, Lord Roche, and some others, made their submission; but this was only feigned, for they quickly rejoined the rebel party: and on the 23rd of May, in the following year, the Castle of Cahir was surprised and taken by the Lord Cahir's brother, as was supposed with his connivance. This surrender to the rebels, and its subsequent

recovery, are thus related by Sir George Carew, in his "*Pacata Hibernia*":—

"The President being at Youghall, in his journey to Cork, sent Sir John Dowdall, an ancient captain in Ireland, to Cahir Castle, as well to see the same provided of a sufficient ward out of Captain George Blount's company, as to take order for the furnishing of them with victual, munition, and other warlike provision. There he left, the 8th or 9th of May, a sergeant with nine-and-twenty soldiers, and all necessary provisions for two months; who, notwithstanding, upon the three-and-twentieth of the same, were surprised by James Galdie, alias Butler, brother to the Lord of Cahir, and, as it was suspected by many pregnant presumptions, not without the consent and working of the lord himself, which in after times proved to be true. The careless security of the warders, together with the treachery of an Irishman who was placed sentinel upon the top of the castle, were the causes of the surprise.

"James Galdie had no more in his company than sixty men; and, coming to the wall of the bawne of the castle undiscovered, by the help of ladders, and some masons that brake holes in some part of the wall where it was weak, got in and entered the hall before they were perceived. The sergeant, named Thomas Quayle, which had the charge of the castle, made some little resistance, and was wounded. Three of the wards were slain; the rest, upon promise of their lives, rendered their arms, and were sent to Clonmell. Of this surprise the Lord President had notice when he was at Kilmallock; whereupon he sent directions for their imprisonment in Clonmell, until he might have leisure to try the delinquents by a marshal's-court. Upon the fourth day following, James Butler, who took the castle, wrote a large letter to the President, to excuse himself of his traitorly act, wherein there were

not so many lines as lies, and written by the underhand working of the Lord of Cahir, his brother, they conceiving it to be the very next way to have the castle restored to the baron.

“ Toward the latter end of the month of August, the Lord-Deputy, writing to the President about some other occasions, it pleased him to remember Cahir Castle, signifying that he much desired to have that castle recovered from the rebels ; the rather because the great ordnance, or cannon, and a culverin being left there by the Earl of Essex, were now possessed by the rebels. This item from the Lord-Deputy spurred on the President, without further delay, to take order therein, and therefore, presently, by his letters, sent for the lord, who was vehemently suspected to have some hand both in the taking and keeping of it. The Baron of Cahir being come, the council persuaded him to deal with his brother, James Galdie, about the redelivery of it to Her Majesty ; but his answer was, that he had no more interest with his brother than the meanest person had, for he was unwilling to have the castle regained by the state. The President perceiving this, let him know that if it were speedily yielded to him, he would entreat the Lord-Deputy to restore it to him ; but, if not, he would march to the castle and raze it to the ground.”

This had the desired effect. Lord Cahir, accompanied by Justice Comerford, rode away to the castle, and soon prevailed on James Galdie to surrender the castle to the Queen. Lord Cahir, notwithstanding his treachery, was pardoned by the Queen, and had his castle and estates restored to him in May, 1601, and died in possession of them in January, 1628 ; but his brother, James Galdie, lived to engage in the troubles of 1641, and suffered accordingly.

During this Lord Cahir's time, namely in 1626, Lord-Deputy Falkland was entertained by him with great splendour

in the castle, while on a tour through Ireland. On the death of this Lord Cahir, as already stated, in 1628, the property was inherited by his only daughter Margaret, who married her kinsman, Edmund Butler, the fourth Lord Dumboyne, who, whilst residing in this castle with his wife, murdered in it James Prendergast, the owner of Newcastle. For this he was arrested and confined in Dublin Castle; but on his trial he was acquitted, fifteen of his peers voting him innocent, and only one, the celebrated Lord Dockwra, voting him guilty.

During the troubles following the rebellion of 1641, Cahir Castle was invested by Lord Inchiquin, who was then commanding for the Parliament. He carried its outer works, and compelled its surrender in a few hours. This was in August, 1647, and again in February, 1650, Cromwell himself appeared before it, and his proceedings were very characteristic. They are thus related by Cliffe, the secretary to General Ireton:—"The place was possessed by one Captain Mathews, who was but a little before married to Lady Cahir, and had in it a considerable number of men to defend it. The general drew his men before it, and, for the better terror in the business, brought some cannon with him likewise, there being a great report of the strength of the place; and a story told the General that the Earl of Essex, in Queen Elizabeth's time, lay seven or eight weeks before it, and could not take it. He was, notwithstanding, then resolved to attempt the taking of it, and in order thereunto sent them this thundering message :

" "Sir, having brought the army and my cannon near this place, according to my usual manner in summoning places, I thought fit to offer you terms honourable for soldiers, that you may march away with your baggage, arms and colours, free from injuries or violence. But if I be, notwithstanding, neces-

fitated to bend my cannon upon you, *you must expect what is usual in such cases.* To avoid blood, this is offered to you by

‘Your servant,

‘O. CROMWELL.

‘To the Governor at Cahir Castle,

24th February, 1649 (1650.)’

“Notwithstanding the strength of the place, and the unseasonableness of the time of year, this summons struck such a terror into the garrison, that the same day the governor, Captain Mathews, immediately came to the General, and agreed for the surrender,” etc.

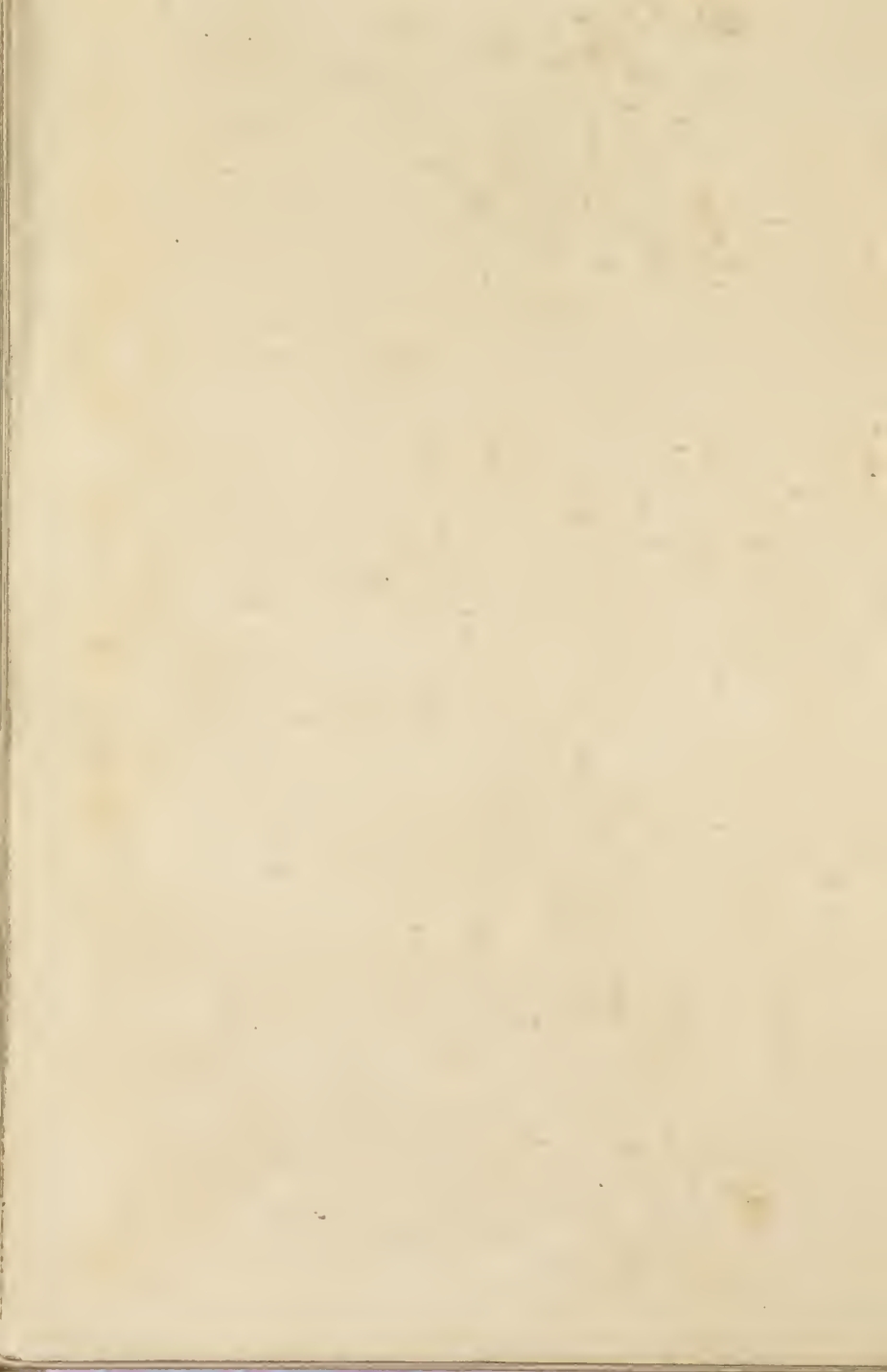
This Captain Mathews, or Mathew, it appears, was the ancestor of the celebrated Father Mathew, the apostle of temperance ; an interesting fact connected with the place.

In the “*Pacata Hibernia*” there is an accurate birds-eye view of Cahir Castle, as besieged by the Earl of Essex ; which shows that, notwithstanding the lapse of time, its great age, even at that period, and all the effects of storms and winters since, it presents very much the same appearance now as then, and from the care exercised for its preservation by the present owner, it is likely to exhibit a similar aspect for ages to come. It stands on a considerable space of ground, on an island, and has two bridges to connect it with the two banks of the Suir. It consists of a great square keep, surrounded by extensive out-works, forming an outer and inner ballium, with a small court-yard between the two ; these outworks being flanked by seven towers, four of which are circular, and three of larger size, square.

The view of the interior justifies the reputation for strength which this castle possessed before the vast force acquired by cannon. Its strong gateways, with their machicolations, their vaulted passages and portcullisses, its vaulted dungeons and

oubliettes, one of them having its roof covered with large flat stones, its trap-doors and gates of iron, impresses you with a sense of the difficulty of assailants breaking in, and of the impossibility of unlucky prisoners breaking out. The Great Keep has a most singular oubliette or dungeon-hole made in the wall, very much like one of those in Germany, in which obnoxious prisoners were built up and left to perish. The great hall has been restored. The summits of the building have been as carefully prepared for defence as any part below; and the whole presents a very interesting specimen of fortification in the days when Whitworth and Armstrong guns were unknown. The marks of shot are visible all over the eastern front of each building, in which direction it was attacked by Essex. Many of his cannon-balls have been found in the walls, and are now again replaced in the spots out of which they had been taken. Many others struck, but did not penetrate, only chipping and scaling away the outer stone; the powder as well as the artillery of those days being far inferior to what they are now.





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